SATURDAY
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SIGNIFICANT MOVE

Karnataka govt. set to revoke hijab ban

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AT LONG LAST

UN approves resolution on aid to Gaza

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MONETARY POLICY PANEL MEET

'Economic scenario is turning benign'

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TELECOM LAW

A pointer to digital authoritarianism

State control is present throughout the Act

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DEBUTANT'S DAY OUT

Richa shines as India takes control of Test

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

CET to be held on April 20 and 21

BENGALURU
The Common Entrance Test 2024 (CET 2024) will be conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority on April 20 and 21. The registration and filling of application online will commence on January 10.
» PAGE 9

Bengaluru man held for stealing century-old book

UDHAGAMANDALAM
A Bengaluru resident was arrested for stealing a 116-year-old book from the 160-year-old Nilgiri Library in Udhagamandalam. The police identified the accused as Katitra Debnath, 34, of Koramangala. » PAGE 11

Govt. silencing people, stifling voice of Opposition: INDIA bloc

Opposition parties stage a dharna at Jantar Mantar against suspension of MPs; Rahul blames Modi government's policies for Parliament security breach; Kharge says he was not allowed to speak in the House, slams Rajya Sabha Chairman Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking it on: Leaders of the INDIA parties seen during a protest against the suspension of Opposition MPs, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The INDIA bloc parties on Friday staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar here protesting against the suspension of 146 Opposition MPs and attacking the Narendra Modi government for stifling the voice of the Opposition.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said that by suspending these parliamentarians, the government had shut the voice of 60% Indians. "Every MP carries lakhs of votes. You have not only suspended the MPs but have also silenced crores of people who had voted for the representatives who are now suspended," Mr. Gandhi said.

Reiterating his earlier claim, the Congress leader blamed the Modi government's policies for the Parliament security breach.

"The government has not given employment to youth. This is why they jumped and entered the Parliament," he added. Mr. Gandhi said the Opposition under the INDIA bloc would fight the hate the BJP was spreading.

Kharge flays Dhankhar

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge once again took a potshot at Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar saying that a person sitting in a constitutional post must not talk on caste lines. Mr. Kharge asked, "I was not allowed to speak in the House. Should I say that the BJP government is not allowing a Dalit to speak. The Constitution allows all of us to speak," Mr. Kharge said.

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Opposition MPs requested for suspension: Joshi

NEW DELHI
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday claimed that several Opposition MPs requested for their suspension for political mileage. » PAGE 15

Dhankhar reacts on Opposition refusing meeting

NEW DELHI
Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday, expressed anguish at the Opposition's refusal to meet him. » PAGE 15

Macron accepts PM's invite, to be the chief guest at R-Day fete

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations next January, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Friday. Mr. Macron has acknowledged India's invite and announced that he will be here on January 26 for the festivities.

"As Strategic Partners, India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. This year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership," said the MEA in the announcement.

Accepting the invite from the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Macron said in a social media post, "Thank you for your invitation, my dear friend Narendra Modi. India, on your Republic Day, I'll be here to celebrate with you."

France has emerged as one of the key defence partners of India in recent years and the two sides have maintained consistent high-level contacts. Mr. Modi was Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day parade in Paris on July 14.

The French President visited New Delhi during the G-20 Summit on September 9 and 10 when he had also travelled to Dhaka for a short visit.

Girona — the underdog riding on a giant's shoulders

Coach Michel Sanchez has a group with no stars competing at the top of LaLiga. But the club's heartwarming story has a caveat — the turnaround came after Manchester City's Abu Dhabi ownership, whose operations have drawn criticism, purchased a major stake in it

Reuters
Associated Press

Over the last few months in LaLiga, something truly exceptional – in the context of the Spanish premier division's recent history – has been unfolding.

A league dominated by Barcelona and Real Madrid since 2004-05 – Atletico Madrid is the only other team to have won the LaLiga title (2014, 2021) in this period – has seen the emergence of an underdog fighting above its weight class and threatening the contenders.

Turning heads

In just its fourth season in the top-flight, Girona is turning heads. Coach Michel Sanchez has a group with no stars competing at the very top of LaLiga with an attractive, free-scoring style.

Promoted via a playoff in 2021-22, Girona finished 10th last season, equalling its previous best performance, which came in 2017-18. But the manner in which it has started this season suggests that 10th will not remain its highest LaLiga finish.

Such has been Girona's quality that Barcelona, the Spanish league champion last season, has looked like the second-best team in the Catalonia region so far in 2023-24.

When the two sides met earlier this month at Barcelona's temporary home, the Lluis Companys Olympic Stadium, it was Girona which played like a European giant. A 4-2 statement win, followed by a 3-0 victory over Deportivo Alaves, gave it sole possession of first place with the season nearing the halfway point.

Coach Michel, however, was quick to play down expectations. "I think mathematically we have escaped demotion, which was the goal," he said. "I don't think we can keep up with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid and win the league. It's not our objective. But we are very pleased. I think it's good to recognise that we are making history, eh. I don't know if we have the ability to win LaLiga, but this Girona side has a soul and believes it can beat any opponent."

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez was impressed with what he saw during his side's stinging defeat. "It's the best team I've seen play so far," he said. "I like them because they're brave, they're not afraid. They're a dynamic team, with a great coach, a system similar to ours, they want to have the ball, they want to be the protagonists – they put pressure on you."

Controversial ownership

Girona's sudden rise from obscurity has the makings of a heartwarming story – but there is one caveat. The club's turnaround has occurred after Manchester City's Abu Dhabi ownership purchased a major stake in it. The City Football Group's operations have been the subject of criticism and scrutiny – the Premier League has charged Man City with more than 100 breaches of its financial rules following a four-year investigation. It also continues to face allegations of 'sportswashing'.

Although one of 13 clubs invested in by the very wealthy City Football Group, Girona has a strict spending cap on salaries, like every other Spanish league team. This cap is based on the revenues generated and debts held by the club itself, not on the assets held by its owners. This season Girona's salary cap is around 50 million euros, which is only the 13th biggest in the 20-team league, with the list topped by Madrid at 727 million euros.

Girona, however, enjoys other advantages of being part of the City Football Group network, which owns clubs from around the world, including Brazil, Uruguay, Japan, China and Australia. Girona has two players who belong to other City Football Group clubs: right-back Yan Couto (on loan from Man City) and winger Savio (on loan from French club Troyes). Both are excelling.

The perks extend to tapping into the group's extensive database of scouting reports, as well as the sharing of strategies and industry knowledge. So while Girona this season is an underdog battling heavyweights, it is backed by a giant with ambitious plans.

The financial backing allows the club to embark on major investments for its future, such as the training centre it is planning to build and the remodelling of its 14,600-seat Montilivi Stadium.

Girona CEO Ignasi Mas-Baga sought to put a gentler spin on the club's ambitions. "We want to be a club that is not divisive, that has a friendly face, and has a different approach to being close to supporters. The focus is long-term stability. We have a more global vision, but always keeping in mind that we run the club locally from Girona," he said.

The local, human touch

The local, 'human' touch has benefited players looking to make the most of second chances.

Take Aleix Garcia, who joined Man City as a teenager, only to soon be loaned out to Girona. Now permanently at the club, the midfielder became the first Girona player to debut for Spain's national team. Barcelona players Eric Garcia and Pablo Torre came on loan this summer – with Girona not seen as a title rival – when former Ajax defender Daley Blind signed for the club.

Espanyol veterans David Lopez and Cristhian Stuani have extended their careers here. Striker Artem Dovbyk and forward Viktor Tsygankov have both arrived over the past year after leaving clubs in Ukraine following the invasion by Russia. Dovbyk spearheads an attack that has two gears. It can either attack with the speed of Savio, Tsygankov and Ivan Martin or through long-passing build-ups.

Although Girona will not be able to shake off questions about its ownership, Mas-Baga said that he is not concerned about the possible reprimand Man City is facing in England. Nor is he troubled about the UEFA rule that says two teams of the same owner can't play in the same competition. As of now, Girona and City would qualify for next season's Champions League, creating a possible conflict that few realistically could have predicted.

While Michel and the players are dedicated to keeping their run going over the coming weeks, Mas-Baga's job is to convert what he called this "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for his club into a factor for future growth. So far, he said, things are looking good. From selling just 800 jerseys for a total of 40,000 euros in 2015, Girona expects to sell 1 million euros worth of shirts this season.

"We are also selling overseas, Japan, South America, in the States, all over the world. When we arrived, we couldn't imagine people in Japan waiting over shirts. But that's happening now," Mas-Baga said. "And brands are knocking our doors, but we are also knocking on a lot of doors, because the opportunity is now."

> This Girona side has a soul and believes it can beat any opponent. I think it's good to recognise that we are making history, eh. But winning it all still is too far away to think about
>
> **MICHEL SANCHEZ**
> Girona coach

> [Cristhian] Stu[ani] is the smartest player in the area. When we put the ball in the box, he always appears. I am happy for him. He is the most loved player in Girona
>
> **MICHEL**

> I like them because they're brave, they're not afraid. They're a dynamic team, with a great coach, a system similar to ours, they want to have the ball, they want to be the protagonists — they put pressure on you
>
> **XAVI HERNANDEZ**
> Barcelona coach

CRISTHIAN STUANI

GETTY IMAGES

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,245	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,855	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,600	22
4	Jannik Sinner	22	6,490	23
5	Andrey Rublev	26	4,805	25
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,235	24
7	Alexander Zverev	26	3,985	27
8	Holger Rune	20	3,660	23
9	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,245	24
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,100	26
11	Casper Ruud	24	2,825	24
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,740	25
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,665	26
14	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,570	23
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2,520	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 138 ▼▲ No change

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 440 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,295	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,050	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,580	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,365	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,975	20
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,195	21
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,046	16
8	Karolina Muchova	27	3,650	15
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,620	24
10	Barbora Krejcikova	28	2,880	21
11	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,855	23
12	Madison Keys	28	2,816	18
13	Jelena Ostapenko	26	2,720	23
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,660	17
15	Qinwen Zheng	21	2,660	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 208 ▼ 1 spot

Karman Thandi
Rank 329 ▼ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	17	12	3	2	35	15	20	39
2	Liverpool	17	11	5	1	36	15	21	38
3	Aston Villa	17	12	2	3	37	21	16	38
4	Man. City	17	10	4	3	40	20	20	34
5	Tottenham	17	10	3	4	35	23	12	33
6	Newcastle	17	9	2	6	36	21	15	29
7	Man. United	17	9	1	7	18	21	-3	28
8	Brighton	18	7	6	5	34	31	3	27
9	West Ham	17	8	3	6	29	30	-1	27
10	Chelsea	17	6	4	7	28	26	2	22
11	Fulham	17	6	3	8	26	29	-3	21
12	Brentford	17	5	4	8	24	24	0	19
13	Wolves	17	5	4	8	21	29	-8	19
14	Bournemouth	16	5	4	7	21	30	-9	19
15	Crystal Palace	18	4	6	8	18	26	-8	18
16	Everton *	17	8	2	7	22	20	2	16
17	Nott. Forest	17	3	5	9	17	30	-13	14
18	Luton Town	16	2	3	11	17	32	-15	9
19	Burnley	17	2	2	13	16	36	-20	8
20	Sheffield	17	2	2	13	12	43	-31	8

* Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. That decision is currently under appeal.

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	18	14	3	1	39	11	28	45
2	Girona	18	14	3	1	42	21	21	45
3	Barcelona	18	11	5	2	34	21	13	38
4	Atletico Madrid	17	11	2	4	35	19	16	35
5	Athletic Bilbao	18	10	5	3	34	19	15	35
6	Real Sociedad	18	8	7	3	29	18	11	31
7	Real Betis	18	6	10	2	20	18	2	28
8	Getafe	18	6	8	4	24	23	1	26
9	Las Palmas	18	7	4	7	15	15	0	25
10	Valencia	18	6	5	7	19	22	-3	23
11	Rayo Vallecano	18	4	8	6	16	24	-8	20
12	Osasuna	18	5	4	9	21	29	-8	19
13	Villarreal	18	5	4	9	26	35	-9	19
14	Real Mallorca	18	3	9	6	17	22	-5	18
15	Sevilla	17	3	7	7	23	24	-1	16
16	Alaves	18	4	4	10	14	24	-10	16
17	Cadiz	18	2	9	7	14	24	-10	15
18	Celta Vigo	18	2	7	9	18	28	-10	13
19	Granada	18	1	5	12	20	40	-20	8
20	Almeria	18	0	5	13	19	42	-23	5

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	16	13	2	1	39	7	32	41
2	Juventus	16	11	4	1	24	10	14	37
3	AC Milan	16	10	2	4	29	18	11	32
4	Bologna	16	7	7	2	20	12	8	28
5	Napoli	16	8	3	5	28	19	9	27
6	Fiorentina	16	8	3	5	25	18	7	27
7	Atalanta	16	8	2	6	28	19	9	26
8	Roma	16	7	4	5	28	19	9	25
9	Torino	16	6	5	5	14	16	-2	23
10	Monza	16	5	6	5	16	17	-1	21
11	Lazio	16	6	3	7	16	18	-2	21
12	Lecce	16	4	8	4	19	21	-2	20
13	Frosinone	16	5	4	7	21	26	-5	19
14	Genoa	16	4	4	8	16	21	-5	16
15	Sassuolo	16	4	4	8	24	30	-6	16
16	Cagliari	16	3	4	9	16	29	-13	13
17	Udinese	16	1	10	5	14	27	-13	13
18	Empoli	16	3	3	10	10	28	-18	12
19	Verona	16	2	5	9	13	23	-10	11
20	Salernitana	16	1	5	10	12	34	-22	8

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	16	13	3	0	46	12	34	42
2	Bayern	15	12	2	1	49	15	34	38
3	Stuttgart	16	11	1	4	37	19	18	34
4	RB Leipzig	16	10	3	3	38	17	21	33
5	Dortmund	16	7	6	3	30	25	5	27
6	Eint. Frankfurt	16	6	6	4	26	20	6	24
7	Hoffenheim	16	7	3	6	32	30	2	24
8	SC Freiburg	16	7	3	6	21	26	-5	24
9	Heidenheim	16	6	2	8	25	32	-7	20
10	Wolfsburg	16	6	1	9	20	27	-7	19
11	FC Augsburg	16	4	6	6	24	31	-7	18
12	M'gladbach	16	4	5	7	31	35	-4	17
13	Werder	16	4	4	8	23	30	-7	16
14	Bochum	16	3	7	6	18	33	-15	16
15	Union Berlin	15	4	1	10	17	31	-14	13
16	Mainz	16	1	7	8	13	28	-15	10
17	Cologne	16	2	4	10	10	28	-18	10
18	Darmstadt	16	2	4	10	20	41	-21	10

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	864	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	826	947
4	Usman Khawaja	808	847
5	Babar Azam	801	882
6	Travis Head	791	884
7	Daryl Mitchell	786	804
8	Marnus Labuschagne	785	937
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Pat Cummins	785	914
4	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
5	Nathan Lyon	773	799
6	Ollie Robinson	762	820
7	James Anderson	761	903
8	Mitchell Starc	756	806
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	781
10	Josh Hazlewood	744	863

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	810	847
3	Virat Kohli	775	911
4	Rohit Sharma	754	885
5	David Warner	745	880
6	Daryl Mitchell	743	750
7	Harry Tector	723	729
8	Rassie van der Dussen	717	796
9	Dawid Malan	707	730
10	Heinrich Klaasen	705	756

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	715	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	703	733
3	Mohammed Siraj	685	736
4	Adam Zampa	675	695
5	Jasprit Bumrah	671	841
6	Rashid Khan	667	806
7	Trent Boult	656	775
8	Kuldeep Yadav	652	765
9	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
10	Mohammad Nabi	648	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	887	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	787	875
3	Aiden Markram	755	796
4	Babar Azam	734	896
5	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
6	Brandon King	676	688
7	Ruturaj Gaikwad	674	700
8	Jos Buttler	673	674
9	Dawid Malan	670	915
10	Reeza Hendricks	660	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	715	746
2	Rashid Khan	692	816
3	Ravi Bishnoi	685	699
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
6	Akeal Hosein	666	681
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	657	692
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	745
9	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
10	Josh Hazlewood	637	806

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HEALTHCARE

Building resilient hospitals

By tapping into efficient modes of digital systems and addressing current challenges, hospitals in India can successfully future-proof healthcare infrastructure

Ravideep Singh

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Healthcare infrastructure globally is under immense pressure due to the growing demand for quality services. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, further exacerbating the strain on healthcare systems. This has impelled planners and policymakers to future-proof infrastructure, while ensuring sustainability and resilience in healthcare systems.

Today, as we find ourselves amid a health and climate crisis, the question is whether to build or not.

Outdated framework

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), the lack of modern facilities in rural areas contributes to a situation where 69% of the population has to travel over 5 km to access healthcare. Many healthcare facilities in India were constructed decades ago and lack modern amenities.

Personnel shortages

The WHO estimates a global shortage of 18 million healthcare workers by 2030. Designing hospitals with spaces that promote caregiver well-being, reduce stress, and enhance efficiency is essential.

Climate change

Hospitals in India must also consider climate change as a factor in their design. Extreme weather events, such as floods and hurricanes, can disrupt healthcare facilities, making it necessary to prepare for emergencies. By recognising the interconnectedness between the planet and our health, it has become critical for us to explore long-term, sustainable building solutions.

Sustainable choices

According to a report by McKinsey, the global construction industry generates about 40% of the world's waste annually, highlighting the potential environmental benefits of adaptive reuse.

In India, over 70% of healthcare infrastructure is concentrated in urban areas, leading to significant challenges in rural healthcare access.

While an adaptive repurposed hospital can provide high operational efficiency, a few fundamental design decisions can offer adequate resilience and flexibility during times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the rapid advancements in technology, remotely managed smart infrastructure is becoming a reality in healthcare.

Some current examples include:

Telemedicine

This allows doctors to provide remote consultations and monitor patients from a distance, improving access to healthcare services.

Artificial Intelligence

Largely used for tasks like diagnosis, patient monitoring, and predictive analytics, this enhances the efficiency and quality of services.

E-Health Records

EHR systems enable seamless access to patient data, reducing paperwork and improving information flow among healthcare providers.

IoHT involves interconnected medical devices and wearables that collect and transmit data, contributing to remote monitoring and early intervention.

Over 70% of healthcare infrastructure in India is concentrated in urban areas, leading to significant challenges in rural healthcare access. A hospital's existing structure often does not measure up to expected safety standards

Smart infrastructure

Hospitals are increasingly incorporating smart infrastructure elements, such as remote monitoring of patients and equipment, automated environmental controls, and digital systems for managing healthcare operations.

During the design and planning phase of a healthcare ecosystem, several factors like preventive health and wellness, equity in care delivery and technology integration must be considered. Educating communities about maintaining healthy lifestyles and self-monitoring is done along with orienting healthcare planners to identify gaps in the system and develop solutions to address the gaps.

Building sustainable and resilient hospitals requires a comprehensive approach that considers the needs of the community, the environment, and the healthcare workforce. The design must incorporate backup generators, water filtration and ventilation systems to ensure that hospitals remain operational during emergencies. Hospital planners must integrate suitable technologies with sustainable practices such as solar energy provisions, energy efficiency, repurposing of structures, waste reduction, and water-saving techniques to reduce operating costs and improve community health.

Pandemic-proof design

Principally, for a hospital to be resilient against any unprecedented adversity, it must focus on three crucial aspects of healthcare planning – triaging, segregating, and surging capacity. Triaging and segregation require a carefully planned emergency department, which immediately screens and secludes infectious patients within the facility, thus minimising the risk to caregivers and uninfected patients. Segregation refers to the physical separation of spaces and the mechanical isolation of air-conditioning systems. This separation could be slightly challenging in areas where the segregated zones do not have separate air handlers, causing return air from the infected zones to recirculate into other hospital areas.

Surging capacity requires additional beds and carefully factoring for the four Ss – staff, stuff, structure, and systems.

Therefore, resilient healthcare design constitutes facilities that are employed with the requisite infrastructure and planning with flexibility to escalate their bed numbers, while ensuring optimal areas for additional staff and medical paraphernalia.

With a commitment to improving the healthcare scenario, with architects working in partnership with doctors, researchers, and tech giants, an evolved healthcare ecosystem awaits us all.

The writer is Associate Director at Creative Designer Architects.

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INBRIEF

Elaborate security measures for new year celebrations

The police have planned elaborate security arrangements for the New Year celebrations. Apart from the existing CCTV cameras, around 800 additional cameras have been installed, said the police.

The police have planned to stop the celebrations strictly by 1 a.m. in the city. Flyovers in the city will be closed by 7 p.m. and patrolling will be intensified on peripheral roads.

Parking arrangements have been made in and around the CBD area for people who want to gather at M.G. Road - Brigade Road junction and at Indiranagar. The police are also planning to ban loudspeakers and firecrackers at public places during the celebrations.

International conference held

M.S. Moodithaya, Vice-Chancellor, Nitte (Deemed to be University), inaugurated the second edition of the international conference on 'Emerging Research in Management and Applications'-2023 (ERMA-2023) with the theme 'Global Economic Turmoil: Transformation and Business Recovery Process'.

Over 100 scholars across India presented their papers on the various aspects of the theme.

Spotlight

Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Delhi:** Odisha's quest for gold **bit.ly/odishaathlete**
- **Telangana:** The plan to revitalise the Musi river **bit.ly/bendinriver**
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Bescom seeks tariff increase of 49 paise per unit for FY 2024–25

While the drought scenario in Karnataka has been cited as one of the factors for rising power purchase costs, the electricity supply company says the process of importing and blending coal for thermal power production has contributed to higher power purchase costs

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Bills of consumers of the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) may go up next year, if the power utility has its way. Like every year, Bescom has sought a hike of 49 paise per unit across all categories for the financial year (FY) 2024 - 2025 in its tariff proposal submitted earlier this month to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

The company has also proposed recovering a higher amount of tariff through fixed charges and reducing the energy charges.

Defending the demand, Bescom officials said the hike would be necessary to bridge the estimated revenue loss of ₹1,738.69 crore during 2024 - 2025. The revenue loss for FY 2022 - 2023 was ₹1,078.82 crore and the operating losses were ₹274 crore.

The increased revenue loss and the reason for seeking the tariff hike have been pegged to an increased power purchase cost.

Bescom officials say the hike is necessary to bridge the estimated revenue loss of ₹1,738.69 crore during 2024 – 2025. FILE PHOTO

"The hike is based upon the power purchase cost estimated by Power Company of Karnataka Limited (PCKL)," said a senior official in Bescom.

The official also said that the power purchase cost for the year would be around ₹28,863 crore. While the drought scenario in the State is one of the factors for the increased power purchase costs, the official mentioned that the process of importing and blending coal for thermal power production largely contributed to the rise. Despite this cost increasing the revenue loss, Bescom is expecting to improve its revenue in FY 2024 - 2025 as it has observed an increase in its sales.

Fact sheet

Financial Year	Tariff hike proposed*	Tariff hike*
2019 - 20	101	33
2020 –21	196	40
2021- 22	139	30
2022 – 23	158	35
2023 - 24	136	70

*In paise

For FY 2023 - 2024, Bescom sought a tariff hike of ₹1.36, whereas the KERC approved a hike of 70 paise only. This year too, the actual tariff hike will be decided by the commission after public hearings, which are likely to be conducted in February.

"Even if this hike is approved, for most domestic consumers, it will essentially not be a burden as they are covered under the Gruha Jyothi scheme," a Bescom official said.

Although KERC officials had earlier said that a multi-year tariff (MYT) system, where the tariff for a control period of three years would be fixed at the beginning of the control period, would come into effect from FY 2024 - 2025, it is unlikely, a source in Bescom said.

"It is too late in the year for us to formulate it now. Hence, we have requested the commission to implement it from next year."

Negative FPPCA

However, the fuel and power purchase cost adjustment (FPPCA) charges have seen a downward trend in recent days.

"The FPPCA for this month was negative as it was -30 paise. But it could not be reflected in this month's bill as we had spread out the collection of an earlier FPPCA across six months, which would end in December. From next month, the consumers might see a negative FPPCA in their bills," the senior official said.

The difference between the approved power purchase cost and the actual cost incurred by Escoms is reflected as FPPCA in the electricity bills.

'Water tariff for homes not increased for 10 years'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar pointed out on Friday that water tariff for the residential segment has not been increased for the last 10 years.

Asked about a proposal to increase water tariff, he told reporters, "The High Court of Karnataka had stayed an order to increase water tariff for residential buildings in 2018. Hence, water tariff for only commercial buildings has been increased. Water tariff for the residential segment has not been increased for the last 10 years."

Pourakarmikas asked to withdraw protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pourakarmikas protesting at Freedom Park on Friday.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday urged pourakarmiakas to drop their protest while promising to look into their demands. They have been staging a protest for the regularisation of their services.

Speaking to the striking pourakarmikas at Freedom Park, he said, "You have been working hard to keep the city clean. I respect what you are doing. I will not be able to take a decision on your demands instantly. I will talk to the officials about your demands and try to resolve them. I urge you to stop striking and get back to work until then."

"We have fulfilled all our promises made during elections. We are spending ₹60,000 crore for these guarantee schemes, which benefit you. I will soon call for a meeting of your office-bearers. We will take a decision within the permissible legal framework and ensure that it is favourable to you," he told them.

Lokayukta police inspect govt. hospitals in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police wing conducted surprise inspections at three government hospitals to check for irregularities.

While a team, led by Director-General of Police P.K. Thakur, visited Yelahanka general hospital, another team, led by IGP Subramanyaneshwara Rao, visited Vani Vilas and Sanjay Gandhi hospital for inspection and verification of documents.

The inspections were carried out based on a series of complaints about the irregularities at government hospitals in Bengaluru and on the outskirts. The surprise inspections will continue, officials said.

DRFO among 11 arrested for looting house of industrialist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peenya police have cracked a case of robbery and arrested a Deputy Range Forest Officer, among 11 people, who posed as police personnel and barged into the house of an industrialist in HMT Layout to steal gold valuables and cash on December 4.

According to the police, the prime accused, Nagaraj, is a former driver in the company of the house owner Manohar. The accused noticed the valuables in his house and hatched a plan to steal it, said the police.

He roped in his associates, comprising a rowdy-sheeter and others, who worked in private firms and as recovery agents.

As per the plan, the DRFO knocked on the door, when Manohar had gone out.

Manohar's son Roopesh opened the door and the other accused, hiding nearby, barged into the house, overpowered the victim, and stole the valuables and cash. The accused even took away the DVR of the house to avoid being identified.

Based on a complaint, the police gathered the CCTV camera footage from in and around the area and tracked down the accused.

The police have recovered ₹45.5 lakh, including 273 grams of gold valuables and ₹23.3 lakh in cash.

SWR starts restoration of heritage railway stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Western Railway (SWR) has started the restoration of heritage railway stations, Doddajala, Devanahalli, Avatihalli, and Nandi Halt, each bearing significant cultural and historical weight.

Constructed over a century ago, these stations showcase a distinctive hybrid architectural style, seamlessly blending colonial and vernacular influences. The SWR has partnered with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTAC) for the restoration project.

Kusuma Hariprasad, Additional Divisional Manager (Bengaluru division), said, "Built between 1900 and 1915, endorsed by the Maharajah of Mysore himself, these stations house relics of old-era architecture, such as small windowed ticket booths, old switches, gable roofs, and local stone used for the base, all meticulously preserved. These are poised to become components of forthcoming art galleries within select stations."

Doddajala is one of the oldest railway stations en route to Devanahalli near Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

Discussing the plans for Nandi station, Ms. Hariprasad said, "Nandi, celebrated for its picturesque setting, will undergo an elevated experience. Plans include a rail museum, amphitheatres for events, and a prominent Nandi statue on the boundary wall, offering an unparalleled view of the sunset."

It's the season of sustainability as Christmas goes green in Bengaluru

Meghnavi Ravuri and Ayush Savarn
BENGALURU

Sustainability is catching up with most aspects of life, including festivities, and Christmas celebrations in Bengaluru are also following suit. From long lasting trees to wooden ornaments, green Christmas decor is in demand in the city.

Advent Christmas Store, owned by a brother-sister duo, Alex and Tinu Santiago on Commercial Street, opens only in November and December.

The store offers long lasting synthetic trees ranging from a five-feet tree for ₹2,500 to a 10-feet tree for ₹45,000. Ms. Santiago said that their six-feet tree which costs ₹12,000 was the most in demand.

A myriad of festive decorations like small and large globes, LED lights, wreaths fashioned with reindeers, and innovative tree-toppers, all made out of fibre, are also popular.

From long lasting trees to wooden ornaments, green Christmas decor is in demand in the city.

When asked about the long-term usability, she said, "We import most of our products from the Netherlands and a few from Taiwan. They can last a minimum of five years. As youngsters, we are concerned about sustainable celebrations."

A customer, after being asked on making Christmas decorations sustainable, said "We bought our tree 15 years ago and now we only buy a few decorative items each year to add to an eight-year-old collection of festive decorations."

Another customer said that this is her first year buying a synthetic tree since the organic tree she was growing was now too big for her house.

When asked where she got the tree from originally, she said "A close family member owns a tree orchard where he grows and sells all sizes of Christmas trees".

Varnam is a craft collective in Indiranagar that specialises in Channapatna toys including those sold as Christmas ornaments.

"They are all wooden and made with natural colours and all the raw waste and wood waste is repurposed into making other products like incense sticks or beads," said the owner of Varnam, Karthik Vaidyanathan.

He elaborated on how his customers prefer to repair their products instead of buying new ones, "In case a string breaks, they come back and ask to restring it."

Travel plans remain intact despite increase in COVID-19 cases

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

While the Health Department has rolled out new guidelines in the wake of the resurgence of COVID-19 cases, it seems to have had no impact on those making travel plans for the upcoming Christmas and New Year holiday season. Many from Bengaluru are heading out to domestic and international destinations in the next few days.

Despite Kerala recording more cases of the virus, it continues to be a favourite for travellers from the city. "We are seeing media reports that cases are increasing in Kerala, but thousands of people are going to Sabarimala every day and coming back without trouble. So as of now, many have booked trips to destinations like Wayanad and Munnar in Kerala for Christmas," said a manager from G.P. Tours and Travels in Nagarbhavi.

Other domestic destinations which are popular for the season are Chikkamagaluru, Ooty, Gokarna, Mumbai, and parts of northern India, several tour operators say. FILE PHOTO

The other domestic destinations which are popular among travellers for the season are Chikkamagaluru, Ooty, Gokarna, Mumbai, and parts of northern India, several tour operators said. "No States have imposed travel restrictions and hence, people's travel plans are still on for the holiday season. They are preferring to go to places in the north like Delhi, Manali and Jaipur particularly," said a manager from Sal Tours and Travels in Cooke Town.

Officials from the Tourism Department said that travellers in the State should adhere to the guidelines issued by the Health Department. "We have not rolled out any specific travel guidelines. But we urge all the travellers to abide by the orders of the Health Department," said Ram Prasath Manohar, Director, the Tourism Department. He also said that the State is having a good inflow of travellers in December.

While those travellers who have booked their tours to international destinations like Singapore, Dubai, Thailand, and the U.S. in December and January remain keen on travelling, those whose travels are scheduled in the later months are now second guessing their decisions.

"I had planned a trip to Maldives in April 2024. But with this Covid scare starting again, I am skeptical if any travel restrictions would be imposed again. I am thinking of withholding travel plans until I can be sure that it will not be cancelled," said Sunetra Kumar, a resident of Yeshwanthpur.

However, tour operators remain positive that international travel will not be affected like the previous year owing to COVID-19.

Meet Radjabov: the prodigious legend-slayer who almost walked away

A precocious talent who stunned Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand as a teenager, the former World No. 4 was on the verge of quitting chess because of a lack of motivation. But the 2019 World Cup triumph, in which he beat current World champion Ding Liren, kept him in the game. He talks about his life, his career and world chess in this freewheeling chat

DEBASISH BHADURI

INTERVIEW

Teimour Radjabov

P.K. Ajith Kumar

> I was a youngster and always seeking blood... All my life I had studied Kasparov's games with Anatoly Karpov, then to play and win against him was great

There was a time when Teimour Radjabov considered quitting chess and starting a new career, in oil and gas trading or even cryptocurrency. But victory at the 2019 World Cup convinced him that there was still a lot of chess left in him. One of the game's great prodigies, he stunned Garry Kasparov – they both belong to the same city in Azerbaijan – as a 15-year-old. The former World No. 4 remains a leading player. Excerpts from an interview Radjabov granted *The Hindu*:

As a young boy growing up in Baku, and thought of as the successor to the city's most famous son, was it difficult handling the huge expectations?

No, I was not really thinking much about it. I had a really tough schedule and a lot of tournaments, a lot of training. Also, I had to combine it with school. And altogether, it was just taking a lot of time. I was mostly working with my father, who was a good chess player. He had left his job so that he could spend more time in my training. I didn't feel pressure, but I was motivated to come to the top of the chess world. And it was hard, of course, with my generation boasting so many strong players like Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand, Vladimir Kramnik, Vassily Ivanchuk, Peter Svidler, Peter Leko, Nigel Short...

You caused a sensation when you beat Kasparov at the 2003 Linares tournament – the Wimbledon of chess, as it was described – with a stunning knight sacrifice. The World No. 1 had been unbeaten at Linares for several years...

He was beating everyone and winning all the tournaments in a row. He was probably trying to set new records. In that game, I had to do something, as there was no chance for me to win, and I found that knight sacrifice. I was a youngster and always seeking blood; I was just trying to win against the best players in the world. Those days, if I saw an opportunity for a sacrifice, I would usually go for it.

Garry was very surprised, he had liked his position before I made the sacrifice. I think he took some time before he made his move. Twenty years later, it remains one of my most memorable games, for sure. All my life I had studied Kasparov's games with Anatoly Karpov, then to play and win against him was great.

We were all used to Linares while it was there; now that it's absent, it's unpleasant.

Later that year, you scored another memorable win, against Anand, with a queen sacrifice, at the Sparkassen tournament in Dortmund.

Anand was probably the second-best player in the world at the time. And it was one of my best games. He offered a draw at some point when the position was unclear. I declined and went on to win the game. It was crazy to beat Garry, Anand and Ruslan Ponomariov, who was the [FIDE] World champion at the time.

How do you look back at your victory at the Chess World Cup in 2019?

Before the tournament, I was on the verge. I was considering whether I should stay in chess or should I really leave. I felt maybe I should think of coaching or setting up an academy. I saw that I already had done enough at some point. I also felt that I could not bring too much to the country and to myself in terms of results. And I was kind of overstressing in most of my games, just not able to play the chess that I like, you know, this combinational style or tactical style... I was lacking in motivation.

I was thinking about even finding some other profession or something. I thought about IT trading and all that stuff. I was also considering oil and gas trading and crypto trading. So I started even partly, I was into this Bitcoin stuff. I was skipping some events and was just reconsidering my place in chess. And then at some point, I somehow won this World Cup and I was really happy because it was really unexpected.

> They — D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin — are very good players, obviously. But to become the world's best still needs a lot of work

And in the final you beat a very good player who would become the next World champion. Ding Liren was the top seed, while you were seeded 10th.

My road to the final was also tough, as I had to overcome Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Jeffery Xiong, who was playing very well in that tournament. I felt I would have no energy for the final, but somehow I managed to come back after the first rapid game. And later on, I think I played probably my best chess in the rapid and blitz ever to win the title.

How do you view India's emergence as a major power in international chess?

I am really happy to see the Indian new generation grow, because earlier it used to be Anand and a few other guys of my age. And now all these youngsters are popping up, just playing strongly.

I think India put a lot of effort together, with the government and the corporate companies. Indian players have sufficient sponsorship, which is very important at this age. You have to get coaching, do a lot of travelling and spend money on chess engines. So I feel India has done a great job. I think it is the world's leading country in terms of the young talents. India is certainly leading by a huge margin, I feel.

They – D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin – are very good players, obviously. But to become the world's best still needs a lot of work. The competition is also strong, with guys like Vincent Keymer and Nodirbek Abdusattorov. There is also Alireza Firouzja, who is already regarded as a top player; you don't even consider him a youngster. It is exciting for India. It is exciting for world chess to see so many youngsters.

You played at the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League, a new concept, in Dubai.

I enjoyed playing in it very much. Even if not as a player, I would be very happy to visit it again. The location was great, the organisational part was amazing. So everything was perfect. And I am very happy that India is now very active in organising great chess events.

GAME THEORY

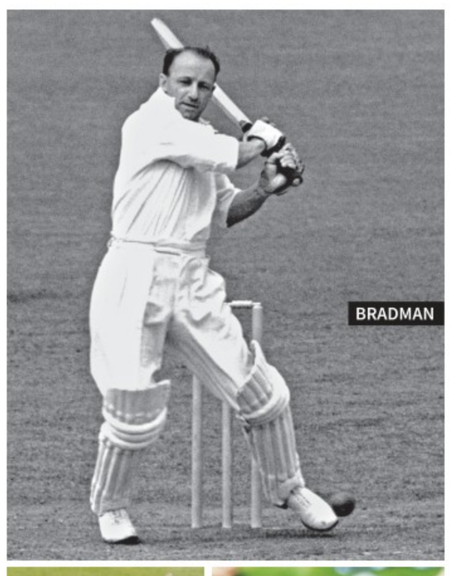
Most frequent Test century makers

Among the most prolific scorers of Test centuries, who do it most often? We answer this question. Here are the top 25, ranked in order of the fewest innings needed to score a Test 100:

FEWEST INNINGS PER 100 (minimum: 25 Test centuries)

Rank	Batter	Innings	100s	Innings per 100
1	Don Bradman (Aus)	80	29	2.76
2	Steve Smith (Aus)	183	32	5.72
3	Kane Williamson (NZ)	168	29	5.79
4	Kumar Sangakkara (SL)	233	38	6.13
5	Matthew Hayden (Aus)	184	30	6.13
6	Garfield Sobers (WI)	160	26	6.15
7	Jacques Kallis (SA)	280	45	6.22
8	Younis Khan (Pak)	213	34	6.26
9	Sunil Gavaskar (Ind)	214	34	6.29
10	Virat Kohli (Ind)	187	29	6.45
11	Sachin Tendulkar (Ind)	329	51	6.45
12	Brian Lara (WI)	232	34	6.82
13	Ricky Ponting (Aus)	287	41	7.00
14	Michael Clarke (Aus)	198	28	7.07
15	Mahela Jayawardene (SL)	252	34	7.41
16	Graeme Smith (SA)	205	27	7.59
17	Hashim Amla (SA)	215	28	7.68
18	David Warner (Aus)	201	26	7.73
19	Rahul Dravid (Ind)	286	36	7.94
20	Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pak)	200	25	8.00
21	Steve Waugh (Aus)	260	32	8.13
22	Joe Root (Eng)	247	30	8.23
23	Alastair Cook (Eng)	291	33	8.82
24	Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI)	280	30	9.33
25	Allan Border (Aus)	265	27	9.81

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO



BRADMAN

SMITH

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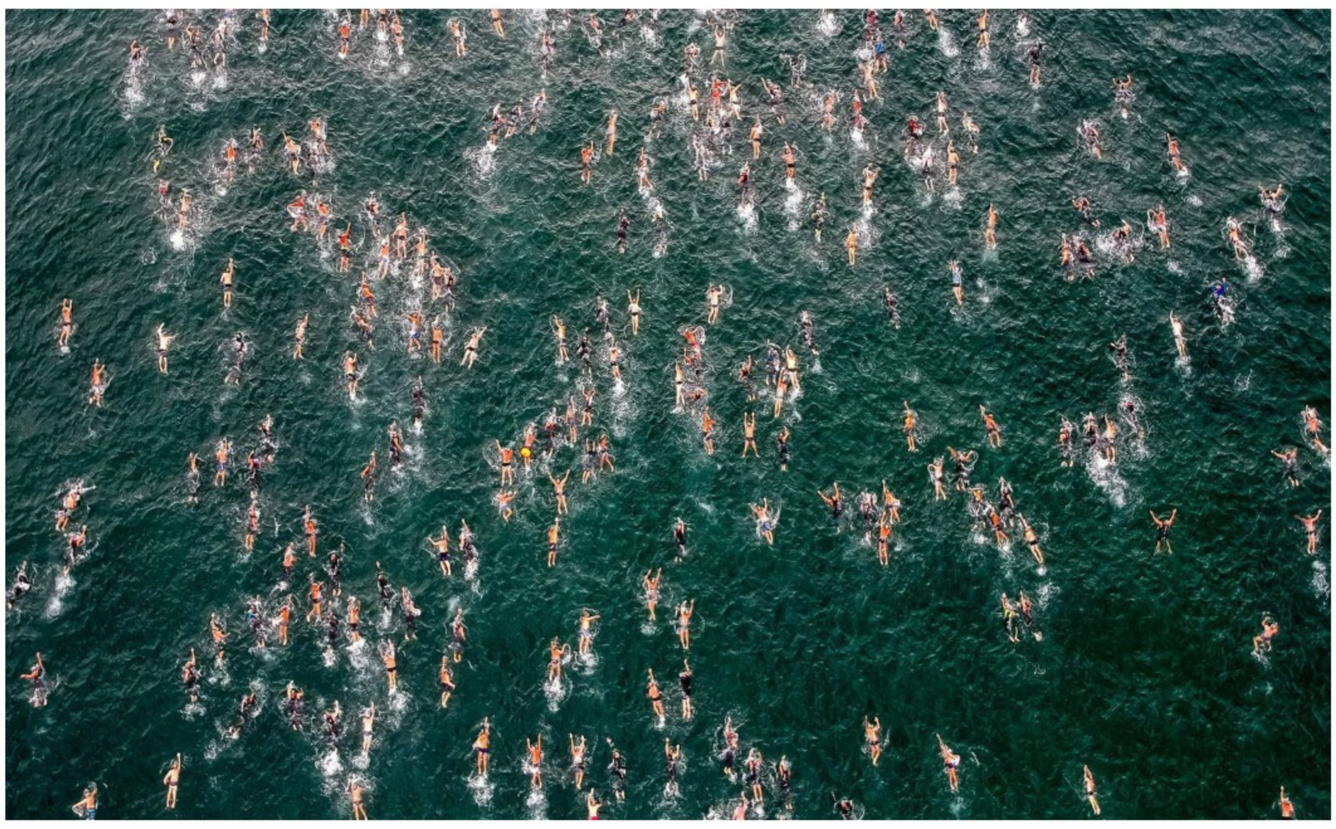

GETTY IMAGES

Wide open ocean

Athletes start the men's and women's open water swimming competition during Rei e Rainha do Mar 2023 at the iconic Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro earlier this month.

Rei e Rainha do Mar (Portuguese for The King and Queen of the Sea) is a multi-stage series of professional and amateur open water swimming races along the Atlantic coast of Brazil.

The meet draws athletes of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, including Olympians for the elite category. Popular competitions in beach running and stand-up paddle-boarding are held on the sidelines of the swimming events.

Traditionally, the third and final stage of the series is conducted at the Copacabana and broadcast live in Brazil.

Open water swimming is a discipline contested in outdoor bodies of water. The challenges of an uncontrolled environment are considerable. Tides, surface currents and wind-chop are major determinants of finish-times.

What's more, these factors can vary dramatically from day to day for a given course. As a result, finish-times from races on different days are not directly comparable.

Government school students forced to clean toilet in city

Parents and residents outside the Government Model Primary School at Andhrahalli in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the incident of students of the Morarji Desai Residential School in Malur of Kolar district being made to clean a toilet pit, yet another case of a toilet being cleaned by schoolchildren has emerged, this time in the Government Model Higher Primary School, Andhrahalli, North Zone-1, Bengaluru.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) suspended Lakshmidevamma T., senior headmistress of the school, on Friday.

As a video of the students cleaning the toilet, using acid and brooms, went viral on social media, parents reached the school and questioned the headmistress. They also staged a protest.

Anjinappa, the Block Education Officer (BEO) of Bengaluru North-1, visited the school and enquired about the incident with teachers and students, and recommended disciplinary action. On the basis of his recommendation, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI), Bengaluru North zone, suspended Lakshmidevamma.

The children and the parents alleged that the headmistress used to ask the children to clean the toilet daily by offering them chikkis, chocolates, and sweets as rewards.

A class VI student said: "We have been asked to clean the toilet for the last few months. If we did not follow the instruction, she would threaten to punish us."

Another student stated that they were never provided gloves or slippers to clean the toilet. "Every morning, they used to ask who will clean the toilet for the day and we used to clean with bleaching powder, phenyl, and other cleaners," said the student.

"We are sending our children to school so they can learn, not to clean toilets. The government is providing funds for toilet cleaning and other activities, but these teachers are misusing our children. The government should take action against the teachers," a parent demanded.

Madhu Bangarappa, Minister of the Department of School Education and Literacy, said there is "no question of tolerating such behaviour by teachers." "We will initiate strict action against those responsible for this," he said.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that a report has been sought on the incident. Opposition leader R. Ashok and local MLA S.T. Somashekar visited the school and demanded a probe into the incident.

This is the second such incident in Karnataka in the last 10 days.

On December 17, three staff members, including the principal of a Morarji Desai School in Yaluvalli in Malur, Kolar district, were suspended by the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) for making students manually clean toilet pits as well as the school premises.

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Chitradurga

No.EE:PWD:CTA:JE-1:Tender-23:2023-24 Dated:- 22.12.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account Nabard RIDF-28 :-(1) Construction of Additional Class Rooms, Laboratory and Toilet for Government Pre-University College at Turuvanuru Village in Chitradurga Taluk (W.I. 6844)Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 158.00

Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 29-12-2023 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 30-12-2023 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 01-01-2024 Time: 11.00 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 03-01-2024 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/429/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/F-50/6761-67 Date:22.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

1)Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT 423 for Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Kittur S/S** in Kittur taluk, Belagavi district.

2) Bid enquiry no.: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT 421 for Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV Itnal S/S** in Raibag taluk, Belagavi district.

3) Bid enquiry no.: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT 425 for Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV transformer without switchgears at **110KV P.G.Hunshyal S/S** in Gokak taluk, Belagavi district.

The detailed Notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging into KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on Hyperlink "e procurement KPTCL" or e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.12.0203.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele), Trarnsmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi - 590010. Ph. : 0831-2590835 / 36

District Health And Family Welfare Office, Zilla Adalitha Bhavana, Chickaballapur-562101

E-mail iD: dhochikballapur@gmail.com, Ph.No:08156-277034

No: DHO/CBP/SUP/02/2023-24 Date: 16.12.2023

Government E-Market (GEM) Notification

Sub: In order to implement the approved action plan for the year 2023-24, a notification has been issued for procurement of electrical laundry through Government E-Marketplace (GEM) for the benefit of health institutions in the district.

Ref: (1) Hon'ble Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapur vide Memorandum **Dated: 20.09.2023. (2)** As approved by Hon'ble Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapur vide file: **07 dated: 02.12.2023.** In connection with the matter, in order to implement the approved action plan for the year 2023-24 in reference **(1)** a notification is issued through the Government e-Marketplace (GEM) for procurement of electrical laundry to facilitate the affiliated health institutions of the district. The details are as follows. **Details: (1)** Publication Date of Gem Portal:**Date: 16.12.2023. (2) Tender Value: Rs. 60,00,000/- . (3)** Last date & if for receipt of param through GEM portal, address of tender submission office: **Date: 26.12.2023 Afternoon 2.30 pm, https://gem.gov.in/. (4)** Date, time & place of opening of technical envelope : Date, Time & Place of Opening of Technical Envelope: **27.12.2023 at 2.30 PM,** or on a later date to be notified. **(5)** Date of Pre-Bid Meeting :**Date: 22.12.2023**. **(6)** E.M.D to be paid with tender **amount: Rs.1,50,000/-. (7)** Officer & Address Telephone No.: District Health and Family Welfare Officers, Chikkaballapur **Ph. No: 08156-277100.**

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officers, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/RO:186/KSMCA/2023-24

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, DEODURGA

Taluku: Deodurga Dist: Raichur

E.Mail.ID:apmcdeodurga2014@rediffmail.com

S.No.APMC/DEV/RcrRIDF-29/Tender/ 336 /2023-24 Date:21-12-2023

Short Term E-Tender Notification

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, DEODURGA hereby invites tenders for the work sanctioned under RIDF-29 Plan 2023-24 from eligible contractors registered in PWD Government of Karnataka for the Indent Number APMC/R/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT/167 The last date for submission of documents through e-procurement is 08-01-2024 for detailed information please visit the website WWW.KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL(KPPP).

Sd/- Secretary APMC, Deodurga DIP/RCR/359/KSMC&A/356/2023-24 **Sd/- Chairman APMC, Deodurga**

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಉಡುಪಿ)/1384 /2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.12.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಡಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗು Standard Tender Document KW-3 Clause 3 (with latest amendments)ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ. ಶೇಕಡ 2.00ರಂತೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)	ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಇ ಪ್ರೋಸಿಂಗ ಫೀ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)
1	ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಬಾರ್ಡ್ ಆರ್.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್.–29 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್‌ಸಿಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್)	80,49,436.00	1,61,000.00	03 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಲೋ.ಇ. ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲು–3, ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ

ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04.01.2024

ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.01.2024 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ :4.00ಸಂಜೆ

ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :10.01.2024 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 4.00 ಸಂಜೆ

ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :16.01.2024 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 4.00 ಸಂಜೆ

Tender documents may be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors

ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಪತ್ರ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದ ವಿಳಾಸ : ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಸಹಿ/– (ಎಂ. ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ) ಸಹಿ/–(ಮಮತಾ ದೇವಿ .ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.)

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಉಡುಪಿ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಸುರಪುರ

ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ ಕುಂಬಾರಪೇಟ, ಜಿ// ಯಾದಗಿರಿ – 585290

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ಸಂ:ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಸುರ/ಅಭಿಕೆ/ 458/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–12–2023

: ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :

ಸುರಪುರ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಆರ್.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್.–29 ರಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ Construction of CC Road, & RCC Drain, at Hasanapur&Khanapur SMY of APMC Surapura (RM 29041) ಈ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 1999–2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್(K.W-4) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.inರ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:– Construction of CC Road, & RCC Drain, at Hasanapur & Khanapur SMY of APMC Surapura (RM 29041) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2,08,61,877–00 (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.) ರೂ. 3,13,000–00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ: ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ (K.W-4) ರನ್ವಯ **ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮ ಬೆಲೆ (ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ):** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನನ್ವಯ **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ: 175 ದಿನಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)

1) ಬಿಡ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಕರಾರು ಸಮಜಾಯಿಸಿ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–01–2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–01–2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5–00 ರ ವರೆಗೆ 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–01–2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5–00 ರ ವರೆಗೆ 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–01–2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಇದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೊ. 9448566960/ 9482399558 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ (ಪ್ರ) ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,

ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ಸುರಪುರ ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ಸುರಪುರ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/240/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2023–24

CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU

(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)

Phone: 08262-295347 E-Mail Address: directorcims2020@gmail.com

Ref No: CIMS/Sup/Tenders/Paper Publish/ 01/23-24, Dated: 20.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION TWO COVER BID SYSTEM

Chikkamagalur Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), Chikkamagalur, invites E-tender for Supply of Equipments, Instruments, and Laptop (SCP/TSP) required for the various departments of CIMS Chikkamagalur from the Manufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules thereunder. Submission of e-tender and other details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl.No. 01. Description: Equipments, Instruments and etc items to the pathology dept **Tender Approximate Amount:** 170.00 Lakhs (EMD Rs.2,55,000) **Tender Start date:** 20.12.2023 **Tender last date:** 19.01.2024

Sl.No.02. Description: Laptop, Tab & Printer (SCP/TSP) **Tender Approximate Amount:** 45.00 Lakhs EMD Rs. 1,12,500 **Tender Start date:** 26.12.2023 **Tender last date:** 09.01.2024

Sd/- Director, Chikkamaglur Institute of Medical Sciences, Chikkamagluru,

DIPR/ckm/No.132/ksmca/23-24/943

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA

KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka, Phone No: 08472-256767

Fax No: 08472-227527, hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/286/2023-24/Call-3 Date: 22.12.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Supply of Printed Practice Papers for improvements towards 10th Standard Results for the Students"** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs.3,85,000/-**

Event & Date

1) Date of publishing the RFP Document : **22.12.2023**, 2) Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement Portal : **26.12.2023 up to 17.00 hrs**, 3) Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting (Online) : **27.12.2023 at 11.30 hrs**, 4) Last date and time for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due Date) : **30.12.2023 upto 16:00 hrs**, 5) Date and time for opening of Technical Proposal : **01.01.2024 at 11:30 hrs**, 6) Date and time for opening of Financial Proposal : **02.01.2024 at 16:30 hrs**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary

Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/609/KSMC&A/2023-24

Government of Karnataka

ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI

Office Phone No.: 08338-272131, E-mail : preckdee@gmail.com

SHORT TERM KPPP TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

No.: PRE/CKD/Db/KPPP/2023-24/ Date : 31-10-2023

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4, (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible contractors, registered in P.R.E. / P.W.D. Department & with KPPP registration Bangalore, on **"turn-key",** basis only.

1)	Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurement Date : Other works	**20-12-2023 to 29-12-2023**
2)	Bid Closing & Submission Date : Other works	**29-12-2023 AT 4:00 PM**
3)	Financial Bid Opening Date	**01-01-2024 AT 11:00 AM**
4)	Pre Bid Meeting Date : (KW-3 only)	**26-12-2023 AT 11:00 AM**
5)	Technical Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 only)	**01-01-2024 AT 11:00 AM**
6)	Financial Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 only)	**03-01-2024 AT 11:00 AM**

General Works Indent Nos.: 2510, 2509, 2336, 2339, 2515, 2370, 2368, 2513, 2355, 2171, 2614, 2375, 2332, 2334, 2199, 2532, 2533, 2516, 2530, 2529, 2522, 2520

SC Works Indent No's : 2372, 2369, 2531, 2503, 2525, 2672

ST Works Indent No's : 2371, 2204

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

DIPO/BGM/812/2023-24 P.R.E. Division, Chikodi

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1,2&3/Tender/DIPHL & CCU-Medical/2023-24/1893 Date: 22.12.2023

Tender Notification

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Establishment of District Integrated Public Health lab (DIPHL) at GIMS Hospital (Ground Floor), Kalaburagi.	110.70	2.00	6 Months
2	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory (DIPHL) in the premises of RIMS Raichur.	123.00	2.00	6 Months
3	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of Chamarajanagar Institure of Medical Science in Chamarajanagar District	108.30	2.00	6 Months
4	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS) at Bidar in Bidar District	109.90	2.00	6 Months
5	Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of GIMS at Gadag in Gadag District	108.30	2.00	6 Months
6	Establishing District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences.	139.40	2.10	6 Months
7	Establishing District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences	98.40	2.00	6 Months
8	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of MEGGAN Hospital at SIMS Shivamogga in Shivamogga District.	1660.50	16.61	15 Months
9	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of VIMS Ballari in Ballari District	1656.40	16.60	15 Months
10	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of RIMS Raichur in Raichur District	1607.20	16.10	15 Months
11	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of BRIMS at Bidar in Bidar District	1607.20	16.10	15 Months
12	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of HIMS Hassan in Hassan District	1566.20	15.67	15 Months
13	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of HIMS Haveri in Haveri District	1681.00	16.81	15 Months
14	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of GIMS Gadag in Gadag District	1566.20	15.70	15 Months
15	Construction of 50 bedded Critical Care Block (CCB) in the premises of GIMS at Kalaburagi	1754.80	17.60	15 Months

Calendar of Events: Sl.No.1 to 7: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **09.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **10.01.2024 at 16.00 hrs.**

Calendar of Events: Sl.No. 8 to 15: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **23.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **24.01.2024 at 16.00 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, P R PUNITHA, W/o Venkatragavan Parthasarathy, R/a No.24, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, Lakshmamma Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to V.Punitha vide affidavit dt: 22.12.2023 sworn before Notary Puttaramaiah, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I JAYASHREE Kallaganad W/o late K Vijaya Kumar R/o F4, 109, Margosa Ave, Green Glen Layout, Bellandur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560103. have changed my name to Jayashree Kallaganad from KSK Jayashree for future purposes Vide affidavit dated 18-10-2023 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, ROHINI U K, W/o Pushpan Kunnumel, R/a 17, 2nd Floor, Sai Krupa, 3rd A, Byreshwara Layout, 9th Main Punnappa Layout, Hennur Bande, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Roshini vide affidavit dt: 22.12.2023 sworn before Notary V.Rangaraju, Blr.

I, PAMELA Patricia Meerarajendram, W/o Sagaya Raj, R/a No.88, Rajagopal Mudaliar Street, Austin Town, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Pamela Raj vide affidavit dt: 22.12.2023 sworn before Notary V.Rangaraju, B'lore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF I ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE OF CHITTOOR A.S.No.37 of 2020

Between

Smt K.Meena Reddy & 3 others ..Appellants/ Plaintiffs

And

Smt K.Lakshmamma & 6 others ...Respondents/Defendants

Notice to 1st Respondent

Smt K.Lakshmamamma, W/o Late K.C.Rami Reddy, residing at Samanapalle Village, Thoppanapalle Post, Bangarupet Taluk, Kolar Dist.,Karnataka State

Sir/Madam, Take notice that an appeal from the Decree and Judgement of the Senior Civl Judge of Palamaner in O.S.No.182 of 2014, Old No.O.S.No.528 of 2011 in this case has been presented by the appellants and registered this court, and that on 03-01-2024 has been fixed by the court for your appearance. If no appearance is made on your behalf by yourself ,your pleader or some one the law authorsized to act for you in this behalf at about 10-30 A.M it will be heard and decided in your absence.

V.RAMANARAYANA REDDY Advocate for the Appellants Chittoor, 15-12-2023

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU 4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU- 560 001

IN THE MATTER OF O. A. No. 572/2022

BETWEEN: -

M/S. ICICI BANK LTD., ...APPLICANT

AND

LUXUS CARS AND OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT NO. 3 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,37,79,752.15/- (Rupees Two Crore Thirty-Seven Lakhs Seventy-Nine Thousand and Seven Hundred Fifty-Two Point Fifteen Paise Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **24/05/2024** at **11:00 A.M** in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **15th day of December, 2023.**

By order of the Tribunal Registrar (I/C) Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

DEFENDANT NO. 3 Ramya Srihari D/o. M N Reddy Raghavan, Aged about 37 Years, 321, 5th Main 4th Avenue Teachers Colony, Venkatapura, Ground Floor Koramangala, Bengaluru- 560 034.

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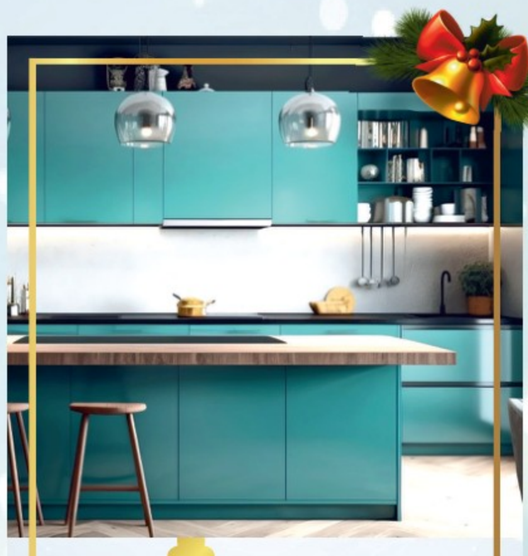

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State has 6.55 lakh RTPCR kits, but is short of others

Karnataka government intends to ramp up the daily COVID-19 tests to 5,000 from today and it will require around 5 lakh testing kits for the next three months

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With Karnataka intending to ramp up the daily COVID-19 tests to 5,000 from Saturday, it will require around 5 lakh testing kits for the next three months. Currently, the State has a stock of 6.55 lakh RTPCR kits, 1.35 RNA extraction kits, and 10,000 viral transport media (VTM).

Over 10 lakh RTPCR kits were procured in March-April last year and the remaining stock of 6.55 lakh has a shelf life till May. With zero stocks of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits, the Health Department is expecting 30,000 RAT kits by Saturday.

Positivity rate

Despite this, Karnataka is one among the top three States that are doing the highest number of tests in the last few days. Karnataka did 2,366 tests in the last 24 hours of which 1,947 were RTPCR tests. The test positivity rate stood at 3.29% on Friday.

Women seen wearing masks after the rise in COVID-19 cases, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Health Commissioner Randeep D. said with the number of tests to be increased to 5,000 from Saturday, the cases are expected to up further.

He said that the tendering process for procuring VTM, RNA extraction, and RAT kits is under way. "We received 10,000 VTM kits on Thursday. While the tender process for procuring 2.5 lakh VTM kits has begun, we have sought the government's permission for the purchase of 2.5 lakh VTM kits and 3.5 lakh RNA extraction kits. We will start the tender process soon after we get the approval," he said.

A senior health official in charge of testing said tenders for RAT kits had been floated one-and-a-half months ago and 30,000 kits will arrive on Saturday. "Now, amid concerns of a possible JN.1 surge, we have sought permission to procure 1.5 lakh more RAT kits and are expediting the procurement process," the official said.

Reluctance to get tested

After the second wave, people are generally reluctant to get tested. Due to this, the State that had procured testing kits in excess during the third wave was not able to use all of them.

The Hindu in March this year reported that the expired stock of 13,63,280 RTPCR and RNA extraction kits along with other consumables had been piled up in the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) depot affecting academic, diagnostic and research activities in the medical college.

One more death in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One more death was reported on Friday. A 40-year-old male diagnosed with SARI in Dakshina Kannada died on December 20, a day after he was hospitalised.

With this, the total number of deaths since December 15 touched four. With 78 new cases, the total number of active cases touched 175. Of these, 13 are under treatment in hospitals and the remaining under home isolation. Of the 13, six are admitted in intensive care units.

KIA's 'Terminal in a Garden' takes flight

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

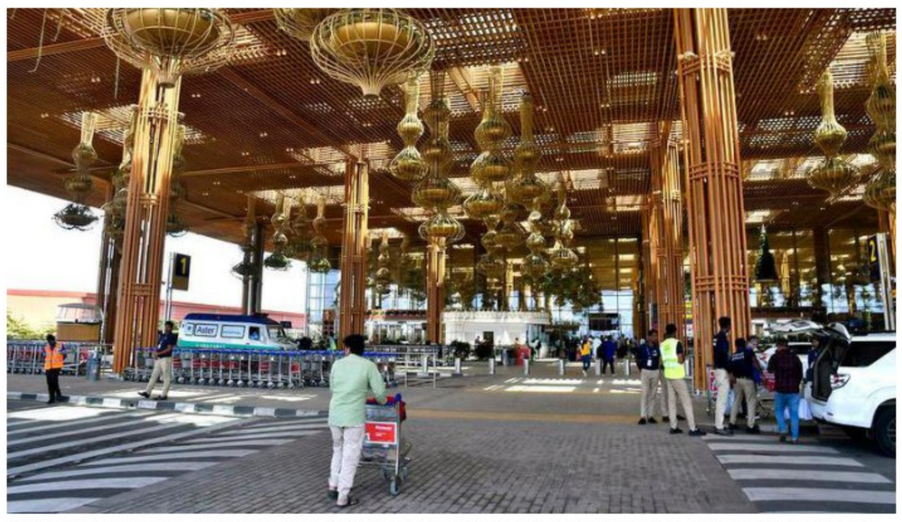
Passengers got a feel of the Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2), as operations began this January after being officially inaugurated in November 2022.

Referred to as 'Terminal in a Garden', T2 initially catered to domestic operations of a few airlines as Terminal 1 handled the bulk of domestic and international flights. Gradually, some more domestic carriers moved to T2.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), operator of the airport, had initially set the proposed shifting of international operations to T2 on August 31. However, it was postponed owing to non clearance by regulatory authorities.

On September 12, all international flights shifted operations to T2 as the new terminal, along with the domestic flights of AirAsia, Air India, Star Air, and Vistara. T1 serves as the operational hub for domestic flights of Indigo, Akasa Air, Alliance Air, and SpiceJet.

T2 has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the World Special Prize for an Interior 2023 at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.



T2 initially catered to domestic operations of a few airlines as Terminal 1 handled the bulk of domestic and international flights. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

REWIND 2023

BIAL has also undertaken a comprehensive refurbishment programme at T1, which includes upgrading baggage handling systems, installation of new elevators and escalators, enhancement of security areas, and redevelopment of kerbside areas.

In November, BIAL said it has successfully completed a major terminal transformation project, which includes the repurposing of the former international area within T1 to create a dedicated and expansive space for domestic operations.

Masterplan

In addition to this, it is drawing up a new masterplan to prepare for the airport's next phase of development.

The new masterplan update, which will be ready in the next one year, will look at where Terminal 3 (T3), which is expected to come up by early 2030, will be located.

BIAL is also open to having a second airport for Bengaluru as the capacity will reach the 90 million traffic mark by the early 2030s. It has said that it would also bid for operating a second airport if the government decides to develop one.

Having incurred losses in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to COVID-19, KIA made a profit in 2022-23. KIA was the most profitable airport among public-private partnership (PPP) airports in the country as it earned a profit of ₹528 crore in the financial year 2022-23.

The year 2023 also saw the Bengaluru-Munich direct flight taking off nearly three years after it was announced.

'All hospitals attached to BMCRI prepared to handle any surge'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid concerns of a possible JN.1 surge, all four hospitals attached to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), including Victoria Hospital, have geared up to provide screening, testing, and treatment of patients.

During the first wave in 2020, Victoria Hospital was identified as the first designated hospital to treat COVID-19 patients.

BMCRI Dean and Director Ramesh Krishna K. said a separate triage area is available in the out-patient department (OPD) block in Victoria Hospital.

"Throat swabs from SARI and ILI cases, suspected to be COVID-19, will be sent for testing. In case the number of cases increase, arrangements have been made for a separate screening area," he said.

"Regular testing for COVID-19 is going on daily on the Victoria Hospital campus. We have sufficient RTPCR testing kits and we can do up to 300 tests per day. On Friday, 200 tests were done of which 10 were positive," he said.

"A separate ward block has been established for the admission of COVID-19 patients at Victoria Hospital. An intensive care unit is also available. Apart from this, we have sufficient infrastructure in all the attached hospitals of the institute - Vani Vilas, Minto, PMSSY Super-Speciality and Trauma Care Centre," said the Dean.

State forms Cabinet sub-committee to monitor COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To manage COVID-19 infections, the State government on Friday constituted a four-member Cabinet sub-committee headed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Other members of the panel are Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar.

The Cabinet sub-committee would function in coordination with the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The Health and Family Welfare Department would provide all needed support for the committee for holding meetings and making suggestions to the government, according to an order issued by the State government.

On Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said there must be proper coordination between the Cabinet sub-committee and the TAC.

"The advice given by the TAC should be implemented in toto," he said.

After chairing a meeting with Ministers, officials, and experts, Mr. Siddaramaiah appealed to people not to panic, but to be cautious and take precautionary measures, such as wearing masks.

The Chief Minister had also said that the Karnataka government would, if necessary, restart COVID-19 vaccination.

Education department to take over schools, PU colleges run by BBMP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy will take over all schools and pre-university colleges run by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in the coming academic year.

This was decided in a meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday.

According to data shared by the BBMP, the civic body will be handing over 16 primary schools, 33 high schools, and 19 pre-university colleges to the department.

From the next academic year, the department will be overseeing the operations of these schools.

The meeting was attended by Minister for School Education and Literacy, Madhu Bangarappa, along with other officials of the department and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

The decision was taken to bring uniformity among the BBMP schools with other schools run by the department.

'Improve teaching'

Mr. Nath, talking to *The Hindu*, said this will help to improve teaching skills among teachers as the department will train them once they take over the schools.

He said at present, although the BBMP has been handholding the teachers, training is not on a par with the department's. "The decision will revive the schools and bring uniformity," he said.

Hiring of teachers

Mr. Nath further informed that teachers and lecturers hired by the BBMP schools will be paid by the BBMP itself and they will not be relieved.

"We will continue to pay them but we will not be recruiting new teachers," he said.

The department, if necessary, will hire teaching and non-teaching staff to the schools. He said the decision was taken in the best interest of students and schools.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 23		
RISE	06:37	SET 17:59
RISE	14:52	SET 03:00
SUNDAY, DEC. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:00
RISE	15:40	SET 03:57
MONDAY, DEC. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:01
RISE	16:30	SET 04:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	24
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will cool. Day will be comfortable but humid.. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A slight cool morning with mist and haze will turns into a comfortable day. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 122 GRC 2023 **Date:20.12.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the reports of the Managing Director, Karnataka Public Land Corporation Limited Bengaluru District and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Competent Authority, Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches immovable property as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Sri Guru Sarvabhauma Souharda Credit Co-operative Limited, Bengaluru and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable property from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

ANNEXURE

ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುಸಾರ್ವಭೌಮ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಪತ್ತಿನ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ, ಸೇರಿದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ:

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರು	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಷರಾ
1	**ಬಿ ಸೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ಥತ್ತು** ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಯಲಹಂಕ ಹೋಬಳಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಂ.10 ವೆಂಕಟಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪ ಲೇಔಟ್ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ. 36, ಖಾತಾ ಸಂ.272/7/2ಎ/36/102 ನೆಲ ಮಹಡಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಂ.102, ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 1308 ಚ.ಅ	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಿ.ಎಲ್ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಬಿನ್. ಸಿ ಆರ್ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪತಿ	**ಕ್ರಯಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು** ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಿ.ಎಲ್ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಬಿನ್.ಸಿ ಆರ್ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪತಿ **ಕ್ರಯಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು** ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಿ.ಶಕುಂತಲಾ ಕೋಂ ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣನ್ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂ:BK-1-322/ 2019-20 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–04–2019 ಸದರಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 43,45,000/–	ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಮಾಪನಾ ವರದಿಯಂತೆನಿ ಗಧಿಪಡಿ ಸಲಾಗುವುದು	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಟಿ.ಎಸ್ ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ರವರ ಹೆಂಡತಿಯಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿಸಿ.ಎಲ್ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ರವರು ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸ್ವತ್ತಾ ಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ತೇವಣಿ ದಾರರ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಯನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಲು ಕಲಂ 3(2)ರಡಿ ಜಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/2696/2023-24

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

CELEBRATE X-MAS NOSTALGIA

AT NEXUS KORAMANGALA

19 YEARS YOUNGER

The mall is close to two decades young, but Nexus Koramangala Mall has stood the test of time and continued to provide new & exciting brand mix, events and activations which are now bigger and better & the assured rewards for everyone who shops here. It has become a go-to destination for Bangalorians for all their shopping, fashion, food, and fun needs with an array of brands and entertainment opportunities.

If you are still thinking about your Christmas Eve – Nexus Koramangala should be your best bet. Nexus Koramangala is in the forefront, when it comes to the festive vibe and there is just so much more than the mall it has on offer for everyone across age groups. It could be the perfect place for the entire family or friends to come together and spend some time shopping, dining, watch a movie, or just catching up over coffee. The mall aims at enhancing the customers daily routine with its fascinating culture and leave you with pleasant memories for life.

EXCITING OFFERS & REWARDS

End of Season Sale is now live with most of the brands offering up to 50 percent off. Also, you can Shop & Win assured prizes at Nexus Koramangala.

FLAT 50% OFF*

Nexus Koramangala is all decked up with the breath-taking graceful 25ft. 'Christmas Angel' installation. The ethereal fairy angel is adorned with a dazzling array of lights, illuminating her wings that shimmer brilliantly even in the darkest of moments. She embodies the spirit of hope, light, extending warmth and comfort to all during the Christmas season.

nexus ONE App

We are thrilled to introduce you to Nexus One App. Your one-stop destination to access exclusive live deals and discounts from top brands. Upload your bills and enjoy instant gratification. Enjoy all mall offerings and services at the tip of your finger.

EXCITING EVENTS LINE-UP

Nexus Koramangala is home to exciting & fun-filled events for the perfect Christmas to be enjoyed with your friends & family. The thoughtful curation of events includes Live Concerts, Story Telling Sessions, Bubble Show, Chocolate & Cake Making Sessions, Make Your Own Christmas Trees Workshops, Musical Santa Parade & many more, making it a perfect family destination during the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
08TH - 25TH DEC | 11AM - 10PM

MAGIC SHOW
23RD DEC | 5PM - 8PM

CAROL BAND PERFORMANCE
24TH DEC | 5PM - 8PM

SANTA MEET & GREET
24TH DEC | 5PM - 8PM

ROAMING REINDEERS & ROAMING ANGELS
25TH DEC | 5PM - 8PM

MUSICAL SANTA PARADE
25TH DEC | 5PM - 8PM

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Whether it's handcrafted jewellery, intricate pottery, or custom artwork, you can find truly special gifts at the Christmas Bazaar that highlights the skill and creativity of local craftsmen & support the community. The Christmas Bazaar isn't just a shopping destination; it's a place where the community comes together to celebrate the joy of the season.

*T&C apply

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THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LTD

MHU Complex, IInd Floor, 692, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 35.

TENDER NOTICE

ELCOT invites Bids for Scanning of Historical Records, Documents, Palm Leaves, Microfilming, Conversion of Microfilm to Digital Records and Implementation of Document Management System Software on Rate Contract Basis.

The Bidders may download the Tender Document from **https://tntenders.gov.in**

e-Tender No.	ELCOT/PROC/OT/33754/DIGITIZATION/2023-24
Pre Bid meeting and e-Tender Portal Training	10.01.2024 @ 11.00 AM
Due Date & Time for Submission of Tenders	24.01.2024 @ 3.00 PM
Tender Opening Date & Time	24.01.2024 @ 4.00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs only)
e-Portal Charges	Rs.11,800/- Incl. GST (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only)

For further details visit our website : https://tntenders.gov.in — Deputy General Manager (Proc), ELCOT

DIPR/6780/Tender/2023

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

No.16C, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

Publication inviting applications for Pre-Recruitment Physical Skill Training under Minority Skill Development Scheme 2023-24 for aspiring candidates belonging to minority communities of Ramanagar, Belgaum, Davangere, Kalaburagi and Dakshina Kannada districts who wish to join Defense/Uniform Services (Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, CISF, BSF, RPF, Police, Excise etc.).

Online Application

Online applications are invited for Pre-Recruitment Physical Skill Training under Minority Skill Development Scheme 2023-24 for aspiring candidates belonging to minority communities of Ramanagar, Belgaum, Davangere, Kalaburagi and Dakshina Kannada districts who wish to join Defence/Uniform Services (Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, CISF, BSF, RPF, Police, Excise etc.).

Eligibility

1. Candidates should be from Ramanagar, Belgaum, Davangere, Kalaburagi and Dakshina Kannada districts
2. They should belong to minority communities such as Muslim, Christian, Jain, Bouddha, Sikh and Parsi.
3. They must be of the prescribed age group.
4. They should have passed at least SSLC.
5. The annual income of the family of the candidate should not exceed Rs. 8.00 lakhs.

About the Training

1. The duration of the training shall be 60 days.
2. The training will be given along with food and shelter facilities.
3. No stipend shall be given to the candidate.
4. They should have the prescribed physical fitness.

Last Date

Last date for submitting online application: 05/01/2024

Instructions for Applicants

Candidates are instructed to submit their application for the Pre-Recruitment Physical Skills Training with accommodation for the Défense/Uniform Services for the year 2023-24 using the following link: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in (click here).

Date: 22.12.2023

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2701/MAA/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TRIVANDRUM DIVISION (WORKS BRANCH)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. V / W / TVC / 31 / 2023
Dated: 20.12.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager / Works Branch / Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14, invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value ₹ in lakh	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of Completion in Months
1	Trivandrum Division - TBSR - Renewal of corroded channel sleepers with new H-beam steel sleepers - 440 nos. (Bridge no: 176 - 376 nos. and Bridge no: 367 - 64 nos.)	124.08	212000	SIX
2	ADEN Nagercoil Subdivision - Br. No. 327 - Replacement of 7 x 9.02 m Girder with RCC Slabs.	178.62	239300	SIX
3	TVC Division - Re-girdering of bridge No. 89 DN. (1 x 9.14m) RUB at km. 115 / 306 between OCR & KYJ stations.	52.56	105100	SIX
4	Thiruvananthapuram Division :- Proposed renewal of Existing Culverts with Rail / joist & slab, Stone slabs with RCC Box - 12 bridges.	376.98	338500	EIGHT
5	SSE/W/ERS Jurisdiction : Renovation of Track Machine Rest rooms.	85.08	170200	TWELVE
6	Improvements to Track machine staff rest rooms at NCJ & VLY stations	24.29	48600	SIX
7	Essential repairs to Track machine staffs rest rooms under SSE / W / QLN section.	30.49	61000	SIX
8	1) TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girder with PSC slabs of Br. No. 176 UP (3 x 9.15 m span) at km. 86 / 690 in SRR - ERS Section and Bridge No. 433 Up (2 x 9.15 m span) at km. 19 / 600 - 700 in ERS - KTYM - KYJ Section - Balance work. 2) Proposed Re girdering with new metallised girder of Bridge No. 176 Up (8 x 24.10) in SRR - ERS Section. - Erection of 8 spans.	306.72	303400	SIX
9	ERS:- Renovation of SSE / Works offices and staff rest room.	39.35	78700	EIGHT
10	ADEN / TVC Sub-Division:- Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	136.80	218400	EIGHT
11	TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab for Br. No. 128 Up (1 x 12.20m) and Br. No. 136 UP (1 x 12.20m) in ERS-KTYM-KYJ section	136.53	218300	SIX
12	ADEN Nagercoil Sub division - Trivandrum P.Way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	149.80	224900	EIGHT
13	ADEN Nagercoil Subdivision - Nagercoil P.way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	155.43	227700	TEN
14	TVC Division - Proposed construction of RCC side drain from Br. No. 35 to Br. No.33 in SRR - ERS Section.	168.81	234400	SIX
15	1. Pro. Regirdering of Bridge No. 161 Up (3 x 19.54 m span) at km: 76 / 900-77 / 00 in SRR-ERS section 2. Pro. Regirdering of Bridge No. 174 Up. (1 x 18.30m span) At km: 84/100-200 in ERS - KTYM - KYJ section 3. Pro. Jacketing and Inspection path of Br. No. 175 Up (3 x 24.40 span) in SRR - ERS section.	192.96	246500	SIX

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No.: 1 to 15 : 11.01.2024 at 11.00 hrs

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
No. SNT-GS-BKN-2023-24-02R

CPM/Gati Shakti, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open E-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 hours on 15.01.2024 as below:- **Tender No. :** SNT-GS-BKN-2023-24-02R **Name of Work with its Location** : Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Electronic Interlocking (EI) systems and execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling works to suit RE standards at Bikaner East station in BKN-RTGH section and at Dulmera station in LGH- SOG section of Bikaner Division over N.W. Railway. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 86629181.44 **Bid Security Amount (in Rs.) :** Rs. 583200.00 **Date and Time for submission of tender & opening of tender :** Bidding start date on 01.01.2024 & Tender closing Date & time up to 15:00 hours on 15.01.2024 **Note-** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** 1322-CQ/23

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR ELECTRICIAL WORK

Tender Notice No.: Sr.DEE(RS&G)BSP/OTP/23-24-11, Dated: 12.12.2023. Name of Work: Bilaspur Division: Provision of LT Panels for Substations and Electrical Switch Rooms. **Tender Value (Approx.) :** ₹ 70,08,380.55. **Earnest Money Deposit Amount:** ₹ 1,40,200/-.

Tender Closing Date & Time: 04.01.2024, 15.00 hours.

For further details, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engg.
CPR/10/341 ***(RS&G)/Bilaspur.***

South East Central Railway @secrail

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

HEAD OFFICE, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN : U15137TN1972SGC006157

BS6/042085/2023 **SHORT RE-E-TENDER NOTICE** Dated:21.12.2023

Short Re E-Tender No: BS6/042085/2023- TNCSC/23-24

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for Purchase of **"45,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split - Husked & Fatka) [Indigenous] / Tur Dal (Split Husked-Imported)/ Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laired No.2)as per AGMARK specifications"**

Complete short Re e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from **https:tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission : **upto 11.30 A.M. on 02.01.2024**

DIPR / 6781 / Tender / 2023 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY — ई–निविदा सूचना

सिगनल एवं दूर संचार विभाग (निर्माण)
ई निविदा संख्या **S&T/C/All/23/02**

भारत संघ के राष्ट्रपति एवं उनकी ओर से उप मुख्य सिगनल एवं दूरसंचार विभाग (निर्माण), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, अजमेर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर खुली ई निविदा (Single Packet) आमंत्रित करते है। **कार्य का नाम** : Design, manufacture, supply (part), installation, testing and commissioning of Microprocessor based Kyosan (K5BMC) make Electronic Interlocking (EI) system at Nathdwara Station as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/192/2019 Version 2 with latest amendment for execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling work which includes excavation of trench, laying of cables, casting of foundations & erection/installation of MACLS Signals & apparatus cases, fixing & wiring of track circuits & point machines with centralized operation of points & signals etc as per RE standard & addition/alteration work in existing Kyosan (K5BMC) make EI at Marwar Jn. Station in c/w developing MG Facilities, provision of public address system at Nathdwara station in c/w gauge conversion work between Devgarh Madariya - Nathdwara Section, of Ajmer division on North Western Railway **कार्य की अनुमानित लागतः** रूपये 05,42,43,278.24/– **बोली प्रतिभूति राशि** : रूपये 04,21,200/– **Date of Opening of E-tender will be 11.01.2024.** Website particulars and notice board location were completed by this office. The eligibility criteria for the tender are mentioned on the tender document which can be can be downloaded w.e.f. **20.12.2023** from the website **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"** 1324-CQ/23

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED

Paper Town, BHADRAVATI-577 302, KARNATAKA.
CIN: L99999KA1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)
Phone: +91 9448218706/Fax: +91-8282-270937
E-mail: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS FOR SALE/DISPOSAL OF DEBARKED EUCALYPTUS PULP WOOD FULL QUANTITY

e-Portal & MPM Ref Tender No.: MPML/2023-24/SE0014 MPM/FFR/DF/RM/2023- 24/036 DTD. 19.12.2023 **Material Description:** Debarked Eucalyptus/Euca-Pellita **Quantity in MT:** 10000 **Last date & time for Bid submission:** 18.01.2024 17.00 HRS.

MPM intends to sell above said Pulpwood to buyer's destination/Factory site and is being tendered through e- Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Cost of document: As per e- portal norms. Blank tender documents can be downloaded from e-procurement portal; http:// mpm.karnataka.gov.in. website. Any changes / amendments to this tender will be published in the e- procurement portal/ MPM website only.

DIPR/smg/No.103/12/ksmca/23-24/950 **Sd/- Director (Forests)i/c**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA — DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

Construction & Maintenance Division,
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru-560 008
Ph: 080-25037 131/174/214

Date: 22.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Name of work	**Refurbishment works at LN2 Calibration Facility at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru**
Tender Notice No.	**CMD/LPSC(B)/C/MI/32/2023-24 dated 22.12.2023**
Estimated Amount	**₹ 7.44 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**1 Month**
Sale Period	**From 22.12.2023 to 31.12.2023**
Earnest Money Deposit	**₹ 14,880/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Also, detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in**

Sd/- Head, CMD, LPSC (B)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 18/SBC/23 of 13-12-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Sub Work - I:- Bengaluru - Salem section:** Earthwork in connection with the work of "CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/0 and 72/100-77/0 SL to replace D Mark rails". **Sub Work - II** :- Cess work in connection with the work of "Chikka Banavara - Hassan Section : Through ballast recoupment of Points and crossings at Nelamangala yard - 08 Numbers". Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 1,06,80,935/-**
2	**Sub Work - I** :- Construction of ballast retaining wall 6000m in connection with the work of "Bengaluru-Salem section CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/0 and 72/100-77/0 SL to replace D mark rails". **Sub Work-II** :- Construction of RCC side drain for a length of 2200m in connection with the work of "Bengaluru-Salem section CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/0 and 72/100-77/0 SL to replace D mark rails". **Sub Work- III**:- Construction of drain for 1200m in connection with the work of "Chikka Banavara - Hassan Section : Through ballast recoupment of points and crossings at Nelamangala yard - 08 No's." Maintenance period is 6 months.	**Rs. 4,94,87,274/-**
3	**Sub Work-I:- Bengaluru-Salem Section:** CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/000 and 72/100-77/000 SL to replace D Mark rails. **Sub Work - II** :- Construction of trolley refugees 75 No's in connection with the work of "Bengaluru - Salem Section: CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/000 and 72/100-77/000 SL to replace D Mark rails". **Sub Work - III** :- Rail buffer 1 no. in connection with the work of " Bengaluru - Salem Section : CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/000 and 72/100-77/000 SL to replace D Mark rails".	**Rs. 4,96,36,438/-**
4	**KSR Bengaluru and Bangalore Cantt:** Proposed development of green areas at KSR Bengaluru area: KSR Bengaluru station and its circulating area, platforms, second entry, third entry, Divisional office, Railway hospital, Nandi club, transit flats in Nandi colony, ORH, Maples, next to STC main entrance, CRS office, DRM Residence office, MG Colony gardens viz entrance, garden near 415/490 block, Railway institute, near stepping stone school, along buttress wall, near metro station, approach to metro station, in front and back of 463 block, behind 455 to 457 blocks and other isolated locations etc. Bengaluru Cantonment: Cantonment Railway Station PF 1 and 2, Gandhi park and children park in old colony, Rail house, Rail house/Nursery and other isolated locations etc. for a period of one year (12 months).	**Rs. 1,69,60,895/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08-01-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/578/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

THIS MARGAZHI, LET YOUR MUSIC BRING ACCOLADES.

THE HINDU GROUP

As Chennai once again immerses itself in the musical divinity of Margazhi, The Hindu brings you an opportunity to spellbind the greatest names in Indian classical music. Participate in **The Hindu Margazhi Music Contest** by sending in your videos and make a mark among the greats and win exciting prizes.

Categories:
Carnatic vocals
Hindustani vocals
Instrumental

Age group:

Children	Juniors	Seniors
Below 12 years	13-19 years	20-40 years

THE HINDU Margazhi Music Contest

To upload your entry, log on to https://newsth.live/MarghazhiMusicContest or scan the QR code.
Last date: January 5, 2024

T & C apply

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, KGF

PH:08153-255291

No.APMC/KGF/19/2023-24 DATE: 21.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Competitive E-Tenders are invited as per KW-4 in E-Tender **Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by PWD class 1 civil contractors For Providing Compound Wall at a new premises yard of APMC KGF approved Under RIDF-29. **Amount put to Tender: Rs.2,09,72,023/-, E.M.D: Rs.3,14,580/-, period of completion: 5.5 Months. (1)** Pre bid Meeting on: **03.01.2024 11.00 am. (2)** Last Date of Receipt Of Tenders: **08.01.2024 up to 5 Pm.** Terms and Conditions and other information obtained from A.P.M.C., Office, K.G.F (Bangarpet) or from the above Mentioned website.

Sd/-
(G.Srinivasa)
Secretary (I/C)

Sd/-
(B.V.Vijayaraghavareddy)
Chairman

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:283/KSMCA/2023-24

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, R.R. Nagar Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, Near Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.

No. EE/RRND/QUOT/01/2023-24 Date: 22.12.2023

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION (IFQ)
(Quotation Notification) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division invites quotation on behalf of the Zonal Commissioner, R.R. Nagar Zone, BBMP Benglauru from eligible candidates for the operation & maintenance of RO plants detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	RO Plants	EMD (in ₹.)
	Ward No.16, Jalahalli	
1.	4 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.17, JP Park	
2.	7 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.37, Yeshwanthpura	
3.	4 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.38, HMT	
4.	6 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.42, Lakshmidevinagara	
5.	7 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.69, Laggere	
6.	2 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.73, Kottigepalya	
7.	15 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.129, Jnanabharathi	
8.	15 works	each work 25,000/-
	Ward No.160, Rajarajeshwarinagara	
9.	9 works	each work 25,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of issue of bid documents: **10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 27.12.2023 to 03.01.2024. (2)** Pre bid meeting : **30.12.2023 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Date of submission of bid : **04.01.2024 to 05.01.2024 till 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of the bid : **05.01.2024 at 4:30 p.m.** onwards. **(5)** The bids will be opened at prescribed time and date in the office of the Zonal Commissioner, R.R. Nagar Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes, R.R. Nagar, Bengaluru i.e., Date 05.01.2024 at 4:30 p.m. if any changes will be intimated accordingly in the newspapers. **(6)** Zonal Commissioner, R.R. Nagar Zone, BBMP has rights to accept/reject the bids.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.R. Nagar Division, BBMP.

Govt Of Karnataka — YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT, KOPPAL

Sl.NO:AD/YESD/KPL/MP/E-T/CR-32/2023-24/202 **Date: 20.12.2023**

Short Term Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Sub: Procurement Of Outsource Employees Service Related

According To Karnataka transparency in Public Procurement act 1999 and Rules 2000 The Department Of Youth Empowerment and Sports, koppal is inviting Tender For The Procurement of Outsource Employees related Service. Tenderers can Get and Uploaded the Details Web-address:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

-:: The Tender schedule dates are as follows ::-

01.Tender Inviting Authority **Assistant Director Youth Empowerment And Sports Department Koppal.** 02.Tender Purpose **Outsource Employees Related Service.** 03.Tender Amount **Rs.65.00 Lakhs.** 04.EMD Amount **Rs.1,62,500/-.** 05.Tender Application Starting Date **Dated : 26.12.2023.** 06.Tender Application Submission Of Last Date **Date:02.01.2024 Evening 5:30 PM.** 07.Opening Of Technical Bid **Date: 03.01.2024 Evening 5:30 PM.** 08. Opening Of Financial Bid **Will be Intimated**

Additional Information May be Obtained during Office Hours at The above Menceainad Address.

Yours Faithfully,

Sd/-Assistant Director,
Youth Empowerment and Sports Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/296/KSMCA/2023-24

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, ATHANI.

Sl No:APMC/ATH/DEV/792 /2023-24 **DATE: 21/12/2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1.The Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Athani, invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP Portal Standard Tender Document KW-4, 2.Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 3.Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money deposit which will paid online through e-Procurement portal as mentioned. 4.Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) within the date and time published in e-procurement portal.5.Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

TABLE

Sl No:1:Name of work:Construction of CC Road and RCC drain and Coumpound wall at SMY Kagawad of APMC Athani under RIDF-29 Scheme., Approximate valu of work (in Lakhs.): 210.03 (excluding GST), Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.): 3,15,000/-, Tender Processing Fee (In Rs.):As per e-Procurement norms, Period of completion (Excluding Monsoon):175 days, Eligible Class of Contractor:As per KW-4 Eligible E Proc Portal

Time Table for Tender Procedure

1:Pre bid meeting:02/01/2024 at 10.00 AM in APMC Office Athani, 2:Last Date & Time for submit the Tender:08/01/2024 up to 5.00 PM, 3:Date & Time for opening the Technical bid:10/01/2024 4.30 PM, 4:Date & Time for opening the Financial bid:29/01/2024 4.00 PM.

NOTE: a) The E.M.D. should be paid on-line electronically b) The tender processing fees shall be payable to thee-procurement platform. c) GST shall be paid to the tendered, amount se par Govt. letter No. PWD 65 RDF 2017, dated: 11.10.2018

Sd/- SECRETARY APMC ATHANI

Sd/- ADMINISTRATOR APMC ATHANI

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-824/MCA/2023-24

M BG-BGE

Common Entrance Test 2024 to be held on April 20 and 21; registration to begin on January 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Common Entrance Test 2024 (CET 2024) will be conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on April 20 and 21.

S. Ramya, Executive Director of KEA, stated in a press release on Friday that the registration and filling of application online will commence on January 10.

For the first time, the application is common for all professional course candidates.

Students have been advised to compulsorily register and fill the application for CET 2024. Likewise for Architecture, BPT, BSc Allied Health Sciences, and BPO courses, it is mandatory to fill up the CET 2024 application and pay the prescribed application fee.

According to the release, candidates can clarify their doubts regarding filling out an application online by mailing keaugcet2024@gmail.com.

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Gallery No.:3, Kumarakrupa Road, Bengaluru-560001, ✆ 7353857787
Sant Ravidas M.P. Hastshilpa Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam Ltd. (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)

TATA

TATA STEEL LIMITED

Corporate Identification No. (CIN): L27100MH1907PLC000260
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001
Tel: +91 22 6665 8282 **E-mail**: cosec@tatasteel.com **Website**: www.tatasteel.com

FORM NO. CAA-2

[Pursuant to Section 230(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016]

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, MUMBAI BENCH

COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION CA (CAA) No. 251/MB/2023

IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013, READ WITH THE COMPANIES (COMPROMISES, ARRANGEMENTS AND AMALGAMATIONS) RULES, 2016

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION AMONGST TATA STEEL LIMITED AND THE INDIAN STEEL & WIRE PRODUCTS LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS

Tata Steel Limited
A company incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1882 and a public limited company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 2013, and having CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260 and its Registered Office at Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, Maharashtra

....Transferee Company

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF TATA STEEL LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that, by Orders dated November 10, 2023 and December 12, 2023 in the Company Scheme Application CA (CAA) No. 251/MB/2023 ('**Orders**'), the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench ('**Hon'ble Tribunal**' or '**NCLT**') has directed, *inter alia,* that a meeting of the equity shareholders of Tata Steel Limited ('**Transferee Company**' or '**Company**') be convened and held on **Thursday, January 25, 2024** through video-conferencing or other audio-visual means ('**VC/OAVM**') ('**Meeting**') to consider and if thought fit, to approve, with or without modification(s), the Scheme of Amalgamation amongst Tata Steel Limited and The Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited and their respective shareholders ('**Scheme**').

Pursuant to the Orders of the NCLT and as directed therein, the Company is convening the Meeting of the equity shareholders, on **Thursday, January 25, 2024** at **11:00 a.m. (IST)** through VC/OAVM in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ('**Act**') read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 and other applicable Rules, the applicable general circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for conducting general meeting through VC/OAVM, Regulation 44 and other applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('**SEBI Listing Regulations**'), read with applicable SEBI Circulars and Secretarial Standard on General Meetings as issued by The Institute of Company Secretaries of India ('**SS-2**').

The Company has completed the dispatch of the aforementioned Notice dated December 21, 2023 along with (1) the Statement as required under Section(s) 102, 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Act, read with Rule 6 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, the SEBI Listing Regulations and other applicable SEBI Circulars and (2) the related Annexures to the said Notice, on **Friday, December 22, 2023**, only by electronic mode to those members who have already registered their e-mail addresses with the Company/Depositories/Depository Participant ('**DPs**')/Registrar and Transfer Agent of the Company - TSR Consultants Private Limited ('**RTA**'), and whose names appear in the Register of Members including Index of Beneficial Owners (as furnished by the Depositories) as on December 15, 2023.

A copy of the said Notice along with the Statement and related Annexures including the Scheme is made available on the website of the Company at www.tatasteel.com and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ('**NSD**L') at www.evoting.nsdl.com Additionally, the Notice is also available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges where the equity shares of the Company are listed, i.e., BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively, and that of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in

In case any Member wishes to receive a physical copy of the Notice, Statement and other accompanying documents, a request may be sent to the Company at cosec@tatasteel.com and the Company will arrange to send the same at the registered address of the Member. Alternatively, the Member can obtain the above-mentioned documents free of charge on all working days (except Saturday, Sunday and public holidays), from the Registered Office of the Company at Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, Maharashtra between Friday, December 22, 2023 and Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. (IST) to 4:00 p.m. (IST).

The electronic copy of the documents for inspection as mentioned in the Notice are available under 'Investors' section on the website of the Company at www.tatasteel.com

As this Meeting is being held through VC/OAVM, physical attendance of Members has been dispensed with. Accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxies by the Members of the Company is not available at this Meeting.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal, V. Nallasenapathy, Former Member (Technical), National Company Law Tribunal has been appointed as the Chairperson for the Meeting of Equity Shareholders of Tata Steel Limited including for any adjournments thereof.

The Scheme, if approved by the requisite majority of Equity Shareholders of the Company as per Section 230(6) of the Act read with SEBI Master Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/P/CIR/2023/93 dated June 20, 2023 ('**SEBI Scheme Circular**') and other applicable SEBI Circulars, if any, will be subject to subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal and such other approvals, permissions and sanctions from any other regulatory or statutory authority(ies) as may be deemed necessary.

E-voting:

In compliance with the provisions of the Order of NCLT and Section 108, and other applicable provisions of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended, Regulation 44 and other applicable provisions of the SEBI Listing Regulations read with SEBI Scheme Circular and other applicable SEBI Circulars, SS-2, and in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for holding general meetings through e-voting, the Company is providing to its Members the facility of remote e-voting prior to the Meeting and e-voting during the Meeting through the facility provided by NSDL. The detailed procedure for attending the Meeting through VC and e-voting forms part of the Notes to the Notice of the Meeting.

Some of the important details regarding remote e-voting are provided as below:

EVEN	127394
Cut-Off date for E-Voting	Thursday, January 18, 2024
Commencement of remote e-voting period	Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. (IST)
End of remote e-voting period	Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (IST)

The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter. The Company is also providing the facility of e-voting at the Meeting.

The voting rights of the Members will be in proportion to their share of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the Cut-Off Date i.e., Thursday, January 18, 2024. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members maintained by the Company / RTA or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-Off Date only shall be entitled to vote.

Members will be provided with the facility for e-voting during the Meeting and those who have not already cast their vote on the resolution by remote e-Voting (prior to the Meeting) will be eligible to exercise their right to vote on such resolution at the Meeting. Members who have cast their vote on resolution by remote e-Voting prior to the Meeting will also be eligible to participate at the Meeting through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote on such resolution again. The e-Voting module on the day of the Meeting shall be disabled by NSDL for voting 15 minutes after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Any person who acquires the shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after the Cut-Off Date and wishes to view the proceedings of the Meeting, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.com or request the Company/RTA for the same. However, such person shall not be entitled to vote on the Resolution.

Process to be followed for one-time registration of e-mail address (for shares held in physical form or in electronic form) is as follows:

Members whose e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/DPs/RTA, may follow the process given in the 'Notes' section of the Notice and get their email address registered with RTA on or before 5.00 pm (IST) on Monday, January 15, 2024 to receive the Notice, the procedure for remote e-voting along with login ID and password for remote e-voting. The summary of the process is as below:

a) Visit the link: https://tcpl.linkintime.co.in/EmailReg/Email_Register.html
b) Select the name of the Company from drop-down: Tata Steel Limited
c) Enter details in respective fields such as DP ID and Client ID (if shares held in electronic form) / Folio no. and Certificate no. (if shares held in physical form), Shareholder name, PAN, mobile number and e-mail id
d) System will send One Time Password ('OTP') on mobile no. and e-mail id
e) Enter OTP received on mobile no. and e-mail id and submit.

After successful registration of the e-mail address, NSDL will send a copy of the Notice along with login ID and password for remote e-voting to the e-mail address so registered. In case of any queries, Members may write to csg-unit@tcplindia.co.in or evoting@nsdl.com

Further, any shareholder(s) holding shares in physical form or shareholders who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holding shares as on the Cut-Off Date i.e. Thursday, January 18, 2024, may obtain the User ID and Password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.com or contacting the RTA. However, if a person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-Voting then the Members can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote. Further details of the same are mentioned in the 'Notes' section to the Notice. Members are requested to read the same carefully.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Mr. P. N. Parikh (Membership No. FCS 327 and CP No. 1228), failing him, Ms. Jigyasa Ved (Membership No. FCS 6488 and CP No. 6018), failing her, Mr. Mitesh Dhabliwala (Membership No. FCS 8331 and CP No. 9511), of M/s Parikh & Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer of the Company to scrutinize the remote e-voting process as well as e-voting during the Meeting in a fair and transparent manner and submit a report on the votes cast to the Chairperson of the Meeting or to any person so authorized by the Chairperson, within two working days of the conclusion of the Meeting.

The results of the voting shall be displayed on the registered office of the Company as well as on the website of the Company at www.tatasteel.com and at NSDL website at www.evoting.nsdl.com besides being sent to BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited on the said date.

In case of any queries/grievances, Members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ('FAQs') for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for Shareholders available in the 'Download' section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on 022 - 4886 7000 and 022 - 2499 7000 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.com

Tata Steel Limited
Sd/-
V. Nallasenapathy
Chairperson appointed for the Meeting of Equity Shareholders of Tata Steel Limited

December 22, 2023
Chennai

TATA STEEL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **SMT.VASANTHA** W/o Sri.R.Venkatarama and her husband **SRI.R.VENKATARAMA** both residing at: No.811, 23rd Main, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru – 560098.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural dry lands bearing (i)Sy.No.31/10 measuring 1 Acre, (ii)Sy.No.32/1 measuring 3 Acres 37 Guntas; (iii) Sy.No.32/2 measuring 3 Acres 37 Guntas; (iv) Sy.No.37/1 measuring 29 Guntas; (v)Sy.No.37/3 measuring 2 Acres 3 Guntas and (vi)Sy.No.85/3 measuring 5 ½ Guntas, situated at Chikkelluru Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:

East by : Tank Bund; Sy.Nos.33, 36, 37 & 85
West by : Sy.No.86 & Sy.No.31
North by : Sy.No.31
South by : Sy.No.85

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA

(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division,
T. Narasipura, Mysuru District - 571124
Ph.No. 08227-261362 E-Mail eekcdtnp@yahoo.co.in

Short Term Tender Notification No. 04/2023-24, dated: 22-12-2023

Itemwise tenders are invited in e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, Kabini Canal Distributory Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore from eligible registered contractors for 7 Works. All the required documents are to be uploaded along with the tenders. Minimum amount put to tender for the work is Rs 209.64 Lakhs & Maximum amount put to tender for the work is Rs 337.91 Lakhs. Last date for tender queries / clarification is **02-01-2024** till 4.00 p.m., last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **05-01-2024** till 5.00 p.m. Date of opening of technical bids is **06-01-2024** at 5.30 p.m. Date of opening of Financial bids is **10-01-2024** at 11.00 a.m. For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through e-portal by logging in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/809/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

रिक्ति परिपत्र / VACANCY CIRCULAR

निदेशक, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आई.आई.एस.टी.) (अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त निकाय), वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम, केरल के पद हेतु भर्ती

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (IIST), VALIAMALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA (AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

विज्ञापन सं./Advertisement No.DS_8C-12011/11/2023-Sec.VIII दिनांक/dated: 23/12/2023

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आई.आई.एस.टी.) में स्तर-16 में निदेशक के एक पद को तत्काल आमेलन आधार पर भरा जाना है।

One post of Director in the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST), in Level-16 is to be filled on immediate absorption basis.

अर्हता, अनुभव, आयु, आवेदन प्रपत्र आदि जैसे अन्य विवरण के लिए 'वृत्ति' लिंक के तहत इसरो वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in देखें।

For other details like Qualification, Experience, Age, Application form etc., log on to ISRO website www.isro.gov.in under the link "Careers"

आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 22/01/2024 है।

The last date for receipt of applications is 22/01/2024

शुद्धिपत्र/अनुशेष, यदि कोई होगा, तो उसका प्रकाशन मात्र उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही किया जाएगा।

Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be published in the above website only.

सीएसआईआर–चौथा पैराडाइम संस्थान
CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute

Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
बेलूर कैंपस, विंड टनल रोड, बेंगलोर-37
Belur Campus, Wind Tunnel Road, Bangalore-37

Recruitment for Scientific Positions

Advertisement No. 04 /2023
Starting date for receipt of online applications: 23.12.2023
Last date of receipt of online applications: 25.01.2024

CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI), Bangalore is a data driven transnational research institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which is an Autonomous Body under Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Online Applications are invited from enthusiastic and highly motivated, young Indian researchers having excellent academic record and proven scientific credentials along with requisite experience and desire to take up research as a career in the field of ***Data Science & Supercomputing and Earth & Engineering Sciences,*** for the following Scientific Positions:

Designation	No. of Posts	Pay Level (As per 7th CPC)	Upper Age Limit*
Scientist	20	11	32 Years

For details regarding Qualifications, *Age Relaxations, Mode of Selection, How to apply, etc. please view the Detailed Advertisement no. 04/2023 available on the website of this Institute i.e. **www.csir4pi.res.in.**

-Sd-
Controller of Administration

INBRIEF

BEL bags orders worth ₹2,759.15 crore this fiscal

Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has received orders worth ₹2,673 crore from Goa Shipyard Ltd. (value: ₹1,701 crore) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (value: ₹972 crore) for supply of 14 types of sensors for use on Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV). This will have the participation of electronics and associated industries including MSMEs, which are sub-vendors of BEL. The equipment manufactured by BEL is part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme.The company has also received additional orders worth ₹86.15 crore since the last disclosure on December 15, and the said orders pertain to miscellaneous spares and services. With the above, BEL has bagged cumulative orders of worth ₹25,935.15 crore till now in the current financial year.

KSRTC gets stars of industry award for excellence, leadership

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) was adjudged as most admired company of the year by the World HRD Congress and awarded Stars of the Industry award for excellence and leadership in human resource for innovative labour welfare initiatives for its employees, according to a release on Friday. In the function held in Delhi recently, Veena P. Desai, Chief Planning and Statistical Officer, and Vidya, principal, Regional Training Institute, Malavalli, KSRTC, received the award on behalf of KSRTC.

CM says he has asked for withdrawal of order banning hijab in classrooms

Matters pertaining to food habits and dress are a matter of personal choice and should not be politicised: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In a significant move, Karnataka government is set to revoke the contentious order banning hijab in classrooms, which was passed by the previous BJP government and later led to a legal battle.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who alluded to the hijab issue at a programme in Nanjangud in Mysuru district on Friday, announced that he had asked for withdrawal of the hijab order. ''We will withdraw the hijab circular and there is no restriction and people can wear the dress of their choice," he said.

The previous BJP government had banned wearing hijab in educational institutions. The Department of Primary and Secondary Education had issued a circular banning hijab in schools and PU colleges which resulted in a political furore. There were protests for and against the move across the State by students' groups as well, starting with a college in Udupi.

The previous BJP government had banned the wearing hijab in educational institutions. FILE PHOTO

Petitions were filed against the order in the Karnataka High Court in 2022, which ruled in favour of the State's circular and said that students in educational institutions should only wear prescribed uniforms, and where no code was prescribed, they should wear "such attire that would accord with equality and integrity and would not disrupt public order." They held that the wearing of hijab was not an essential religious practice. Later in the year, the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the issue, and the case is now pending before a larger Bench.

Elaborating on the issue at the event in Nanjangud, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that matters pertaining to food habits and dress are personal. ''I wear dhoti and someone else may wear pants and shirt. What is wrong in it?'' questioned the Chief Minister and said that one should not politicise such issues for political gains.

Though the Congress had hinted that it would revoke the ban if voted to power in the run-up to the elections, it was the first time that the Chief Minister has said in public that the ban was being revoked.

Mr. Siddaramaiah was speaking in Nanjangud after inaugurating three police stations at Kavalande, Antharsante, and Jayapura. Later, on his social media handle, he also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dictum of "Sabka saath, sabka vikas" was hollow.

BJP responds

In a quick response, the BJP in its social media handle said that the Chief Minister was "trying to sow the poison of religious bigotry in a harmonious society." They argued that uniform ensures equality among students. The Chief Minister is "creating divisions," the party alleged.

Centre will decide on State's plea for drought relief today: CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Centre is expected to take a decision on State government's plea for financial assistance to tackle the drought situation in Karnataka during a meeting scheduled on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters on his arrival in Mysuru on Friday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to New Delhi, and explained the drought situation in Karnataka. Mr. Shah is the chairman of the high-level committee, which is expected to take a decision on Karnataka's plea for drought relief, he said.

Issues discussed

During his discussion with Mr. Modi, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he brought up the issues of Mahadayi, Mekedatu, and Upper Bhadra projects. Besides, he urged the Prime Minister to immediately approve the State government's request to increase the number of days of work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from the existing 100 to 150 per year in view of the drought in Karnataka.

Mr. Modi assured Mr. Siddaramaiah that he will speak to Mr. Shah and other persons concerned with regard to the State's request. To a question on the response of the Central leaders, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the response was good, and they heard them out patiently.

BJP mocks Siddaramaiah's travel by private flight to Delhi; CM asks how does PM travel?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan's social media post flaunting his journey to New Delhi in a private jet along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others waded into a controversy with the Opposition BJP latching on to it to criticise the "luxurious travel in times of drought" in the State.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his aides have showed off opulence in the special flight that they travelled when farmers are reeling under drought in the State. Over the last seven months, more than 350 farmers have committed suicide and crops grown by more than 60 lakh farmers have been destroyed. In this tough times, instead of cutting down on expenditure and set an example, the Chief Minister's entourage indulged in fun," Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said on Friday.

His comments came after the social media post by Mr. Khan in which he has made a short reel with pictures taken from inside the flight surfaced on Thursday. Besides Mr. Khan and Mr. Siddaramaiah, the return flight from Delhi had Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Chief Minister's Political Secretary Govindaraju.

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan posted on social media details about his journey to New Delhi in a private jet.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Help to handle drought

Mr. Ashok said: "The entourage went in a luxurious special flight to seek the Centre's help to handle drought. They do not have any idea of the rough times the people of the State are going through."

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said on social media: "The Minister is flaunting his life style of luxury and arrogance when farmers are committing suicide due to drought. Common man's life has become unbearable. They are having fun in the sky at someone's cost." Several BJP leaders, including Central leaders, took to social media with similar comments.

CM retorts

Responding to the criticism, Mr. Siddaramaiah shot back in Mysuru: "How does Prime Minister Narendra Modi travel? Please ask this question to the BJP. Which plane does Mr. Modi travel in? He travels alone. Why does he travel alone and how? BJP leaders always keep raising trivial issues all the time."

When Railway rules give right to pension to more than one widow of staff, second wife can't be denied share: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Indian Railway rules clearly give right to family pension of a deceased employee in equal proportion to more than one widow, the second wife of the employee is entitled even if the second marriage is void as per the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, said the High Court of Karnataka.

However, the court made it clear that second wife is entitled to equal share in family pension only because the Rule 75 of the Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993, amended in 2016, gives a right to claim pension to one or more widows of a deceased employee in equal shares. If the rules had not envisaged such a situation, then the second wife could not have right to claim share in pension, the court clarified.

Justice Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the 44-year-old second wife of a deceased employee seeking 50% share in his pension and rejecting the contention of the 48-year-old first wife, who had claimed that the second wife was not eligible for equal share in the pension as her marriage was void as per Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which prohibits second marriage during the subsistence of the first marriage.

The Karnataka High Court said that the Bombay High Court in its 2014 verdict had not only held that Rule 75 of the Railway Services (Pension) Rules does not violate Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act but also commended the Railways for framing rules that provide equal share for widows in family pension.

The Bombay High Court had said that the Rule 75 was in consonance with the constitutional obligations of the State under Article 39 of the Constitution that provides for securing adequate means of livelihood for men and women equally, Justice Nagaprasanna pointed out, while directing payment of 50% of the family pension amount to the second wife.

IISc develops AI tool to detect nerve disorder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with Aster-CMI Hospital, have developed an AI tool that can identify the median nerve in ultrasound videos and detect carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS).

According to IISc, CTS arises when the median nerve, which runs from the forearm to the hand, is compressed at the carpal tunnel part of the wrist, resulting in numbness, tingling, or pain. "It is one of the most common nerve-related disorders, specifically affecting individuals who perform repetitive hand movements, such as office staff who work with keyboards, assembly line workers, and sportspersons," IISc said. Doctors currently use ultrasound to visualise the median nerve, and assess its size, shape, and abnormalities.

"But unlike X-rays and MRI scans, it's hard to detect what's going on in ultrasound images and videos. At the wrist, the nerve is quite visible, its boundaries are clear, but if you go to the elbow region, there are other structures, and the boundaries of the nerve are not clear," said Karan R. Gujarati, first author and former MTech student at the Department of Computational and Data Sciences, IISc.

Tracking the median nerve is also important for treatments that require doctors to administer local anaesthesia to the forearm or block the median nerve to provide pain relief. To develop the tool, the team turned to a machine learning model based on transformer architecture, similar to the one powering ChatGPT. The model was developed to detect dozens of objects simultaneously in YouTube videos.

The team stripped the model's computationally expensive elements to speed it up, and cut down the number of objects it could track to just one - the median nerve, in this case. They collaborated with Lokesh Bathala, lead consultant neurologist at Aster-CMI Hospital, to collect and annotate ultrasound videos from both healthy participants and people with CTS, to train the model. Once trained, the model was able to segment the median nerve in individual frames of the ultrasound video.

11th accused in human trafficking case held in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing its investigation into the cross-border human trafficking case, the National Investigation Agency arrested the 11th accused, who was on the run since November, following nationwide raids.

Saudi Zakir, who had been on the run since November, was tracked down to a hideout in Kochi on Thursday.

Investigations have revealed that the accused had illegally crossed into India through Benapole on the Indo-Bangladesh border. From there, he had headed to Bengaluru where he had set up a waste segregation unit. He had employed foreigners, who had also illegally crossed over into India, according to the NIA.

NIA had registered a human trafficking case on November 7, 2023, following credible inputs about certain Karnataka-based persons having links with facilitators and traffickers in Assam, Tripura, and countries across the border. The linkages were identified as part of a large network engaged in trafficking of individuals into India through the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The accused were also providing fake Aadhaar cards to the individuals trafficked from across the border.

Earlier, 10 foreigners had been arrested by the NIA in the case, registered under various sections of the UAPA and IPC Act.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We deeply mourn the passing of

M.S. VIRARAGHAVAN, IAS (Retd)
9th May 1937—20th Dec 2023

Most dearly beloved
Husband of Girija
Father of Vijay & Chitra
Father-in-law of Susan & Krishna
Grandfather of Ashwin & Arun

11th Day Ceremony
Keerthi Seshulu Dr. Vaddi Chinna Subbarayudu
Jan 1, 1943 - Dec 14, 2023
On Sunday 24th December 2023 at
Residence at 12.00 PM. Addr: Flat No.104, Archana Apartments, Golconda X Roads, Musheerabad, Hyd
Your Loving Family Members
Wife: Bhagyalakshmi, Son: Sreedhar, Dr.Sarvani & Pavan, Santhi & Srikanth
Sasi & Pavithra, Siva & Suvarna, Ramasubbamma, Ramakrishna & Sulochana
Dr. Bharathi & Dr. Sudharshan
Dr. Suryaprakash & Dr. Sunitha
Dr. Pavan & Dr. Saroja. Grand Children
Saasvatha Vishnu Loka Prapthi Rasthu
+91 9701 065 030

DEATH

M. MAYA DEVI
W/O Late M. S. Menon - (Pudiyamkam Methil Melekkattil Maya Devi)
Passed away peacefully on 19 December 2023 in Chennai.

She was a source of endless wisdom, always smiling to light up our lives. Her spirit will continue to live on, constantly reminding us of the lessons she taught us.

Deeply mourned by
Children
Ajit / Anand / Ambika & family
Relatives & friends
Contact: 09840830215 / 044-26701811

Office of The Deputy Director (Admin.), Department of School Education, Chitradurga, Chitradurga District
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:egovchitradurga@gmail.com. ದೂ.:08194-222259
No.: E-4/S.Z.P.G.P.H.SchoolF.Purchase/CR-07/2023-24
Date: 20.12.2023

Short-Term Tender Notification

Short-Term Tender is invited through e-procurement portal in two cover system from eligible Agencies for itemwarsupply of Reversible Wooden Desks (2, 3 & 4 Seater) to 67 various selected Govt. Primary/High Schools in Challakere, Chitradurga, Hiriyuru, Holalkere, Hosadurga & Molakalmuru Taluks of Chitradurga District under the Grant approved under State Zone Programme for the year 2023-24. Application Form can be downloaded from e-procurement website of http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further information contact Deputy Director (Admin.), Department of School Education, Chitradurga during office hours. Mobile No.: 9448999336. Details :- (1) Address for supply of Iron Desks Supply of Reversible Wooden Desks (2, 3 & 4 Seater) to various selected Govt. Primary/High Schools in 6 Taluks of the District. (Information of the selected Schools will be given in the work order letter) (2) Period for supply of Iron Desks Within 60 days of giving the work order (3) Amount fixed for implementation of the programme Amount of Rs. 1.31.50,000/- (4) EMD to be paid by the firm Rs. 2,63,000/- (5) Tender Notice No. published in e-procurement portal DPI/2023-24/IND0166 (6) Commencement date of submission of application in e-procurement portal 20.12.2023 (7)Last date for submission of e-tender application 19.01.2024 (8) Date for submission of Sample for inspection 20.01.2024(During Office hours) (9) Date of opening Technical Bid 22.01.2024 (10) Date of opening Financial Bid 25.01.2024

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/434/2023-24

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin.), DDPI, Chitradurga

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

सं. आरओ केए-32.0011.0/51/2023-कॉन-गे केए दिनांक: 22.12.2023
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/51/2023-CON-RO KA Date: 22.12.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से दो बोली प्रणाली के तहत, दो वर्ष हेतु 1) आरएच/जीएस चिकोडी रोड और पीडब्ल्यूएस बेलगावी के लिए एचटीसी, 2) एफएसडी कुशलनगर में एचटीसी, 3) आरएच/जीएस देसूर और एफएसडी बेलगावी के लिए एचटीसी, 4) आरएच/जीएस साम्ब्रे और एफएसडी बेलगावी के लिए एचटीसी, 5) एफएसडी केआरपीजी पर एचसी के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही है। ऑनलाइन बोलियां **16.01.2024** को अपराहन **02:00 बजे** तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं।

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से दो बोली प्रणाली के तहत, दो वर्ष हेतु 1) आरएच/जीएस/एफएसडी मैसूरु पर एचटीसी और 2) आरएच/जीएस नंजनगुड और एफएसडी मैसूरु पर एचटीसी के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही है। ऑनलाइन बोलियां 02.01.2024 को अपराहन 02:00 बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं।

एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है ।

Online Tenders for regular 1) HTC for RH/GS Chikodi Road & PWS Belagavi,2) HTC at FSD Kushalnagar, 3) HTC for RH/GS Desur & FSD Belagavi, 4) HTC for RH/GS Sambre & FSD Belagavi, 5) HC at FSD KRPG for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 16.01.2024.**

Online Tenders for regular 1) HTC at RH/GS/FSD Mysuru and 2) HTC at RH/GS Nanjangud & FSD Mysuru for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal.Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 02.01.2024.**

NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Region)

Eye-catching

A flower show was inaugurated on the Mysuru palace premises on Friday, and it will be open to the public till December 31. M.A. SRIRAM

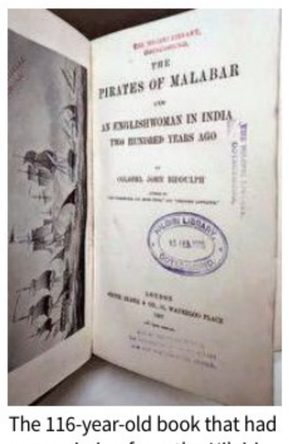
Bengaluru man held for stealing century-old book from historic Nilgiri Library

The police say the library in Udhagamandalam found the book missing soon after the literature festival in October

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A Bengaluru resident was arrested for stealing a 116-year-old book from the 160-year-old Nilgiri Library in Udhagamandalam.

The police identified the accused as Katitra Debnath, 34, of Koramangala. They said the library office-bearers were taking stock of the books – after the Ooty Literature Fest in October – when they realised that *The Pirates of Malabar and An Englishwoman in India Two Hundred Years Ago*, authored by Colonel John Biddulph, was missing. One of them lodged a complaint with the Nilgiris district police who began an investigation. A few weeks later, the police were tipped off about the sale of the book on Instagram. They gathered the details of the mobile phone user with the help of the Cyber Crime Cell and traced the number to Debnath, who was arrested and brought to the Nilgiris and remanded in judicial custody.

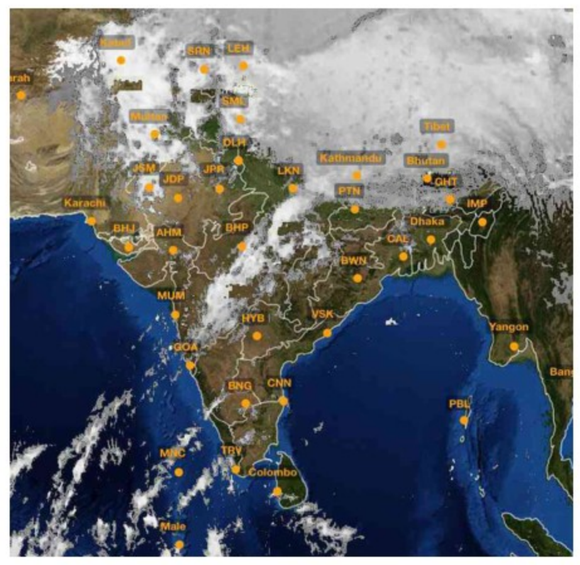


The 116-year-old book that had gone missing from the Nilgiri Library. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Police officials said Debnath made a living by stealing rare books from across India and selling them to collectors. After he was arrested, a collection of rare books from across India was seized at his home. They said he was hoping to sell the book stolen from the library for over ₹10,000.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Dense to very dense fog very likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and dense fog in isolated pockets over Haryana, West Rajasthan, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.9	14.9	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	28.7	16.6	Kurnool	—	30.9	17.9
Aizawl	—	—	12.9	Lucknow	—	22.2	9.9
Allahabad	—	23.0	9.3	Madurai	—	30.8	21.5
Bengaluru	—	29.2	18.0	Mangaluru	—	33.0	24.6
Bhopal	—	—	11.0	Mumbai	—	32.3	21.9
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	13.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	23.1	6.3	New Delhi	—	23.0	6.0
Chennai	—	30.1	21.0	Patna	—	25.8	10.6
Coimbatore	—	30.0	21.2	Port Blair	6.0	31.0	25.6
Dehradun	—	24.5	4.8	Puducherry	—	29.4	21.5
Gangtok	—	17.9	7.9	Pune	—	30.7	12.3
Goa	—	32.4	23.0	Raipur	—	27.6	11.2
Guwahati	—	26.9	10.5	Ranchi	—	5.7	—
Hubballi	—	32.0	18.0	Shillong	—	18.5	6.5
Hyderabad	—	29.7	12.5	Shimla	—	18.0	11.0
Imphal	—	23.2	6.9	Srinagar	—	7.6	-3.3
Jaipur	—	25.6	9.3	Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	34.5	23.8
Kochi	—	31.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	30.5	21.6
Kohima	—	17.0	5.2	Vijayawada	—	28.6	18.4
Kolkata	—	26.8	16.5	Visakhapatnam	—	27.8	19.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	1	3	.28	226	160	
Bengaluru	6	11	.69	155	113	
Chennai	5	8	.35	219	132	
Delhi	.16	187	167	483	432	
Hyderabad	.16	.24	.55	244	—	
Kolkata	.20	.77	.26	249	156	
Lucknow	.14	.52	161	352	337	
Mumbai	.27	143	.60	296	303	
Pune	—	.23	.51	236	145	
Visakhapatnam	.14	.70	.46	262	231	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai , Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 434 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl , Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Centre criticises Tamil Nadu's flood relief measures

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday blamed the DMK government for its alleged inefficiency in its mitigation and relief efforts during the recent floods in Chennai and southern districts of Tamil Nadu. She stressed that the Centre had promptly offered support for rescue and relief.

Addressing the media in Delhi, she said the Union Home Minister, at her request, had ensured that Indian armed forces began the relief work on December 18 (Monday), soon after the extremely heavy rain in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

She said the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), which usually visits the places of such disasters for assessing the damage, visited the affected districts on December 20 itself.

Denying the charge that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) did not predict this extreme weather event, Ms. Sitharaman said the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai, which was among the most advanced in the country with three Doppler weather radars, had been issuing forecasts of such rainfall in the southern districts since December 12.

Even if one agreed that such an extreme event was not predicted, she asked whether the Tamil Nadu government was adequately prepared for a heavy rainfall, but of a lesser magnitude.

She alleged that State government, which expected the IMD to make accurate rain forecasts, was giving contradicting figures on the amount spent on the construction of the storm water drains in Chennai.

She said the floods in Chennai earlier this month had showed that the government had not learnt any lesson from the 2015 floods, especially in areas like the Ambattur Industrial Estate.

On Tamil Nadu's demand for declaring the recent floods a national disaster, Ms. Sitharaman said there was no provision to declare natural disasters occurring anywhere in the country a national disaster.

Kerala govt., Opposition trade charges a day before the end of 'Navakerala Sadas'

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Police step up security amid reports of Congress-CPI(M) violence and Opposition march to the police headquarters on Saturday. The government and the Opposition struck stridently recriminatory positions as tit-for-tat violence between Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] and Congress workers escalated on the eve of the culmination of the public outreach programme 'Navakerala Sadas' in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. Congress appears poised to square off against the government by organising a mammoth march to the State Police Headquarters on Saturday to direct its ire against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for allegedly subverting law enforcement to brutalise Opposition activists flaunting black flags at his motorcade.

A.P. CID seeks court nod to arrest Lokesh

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID) urged the court on Friday to allow it to arrest Telugu Desam Party (TDP) General Secretary Nara Lokesh, accused number 14 in the alleged Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) case, for allegedly violating the conditions prescribed in a notice served under Section 41A on September 29.

The CID filed a petition in the Court of Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases-cum-III Additional Sessions Judge in Vijayawada, explaining that Mr. Lokesh recently violated the conditions during his interviews with certain vernacular news channels on the occasion of completing his Yuva Galam Padayatra, a couple of days back. The CID submitted to the court that on September 27 Mr. Lokesh had filed a petition seeking anticipatory bail before the High Court, which was closed by the court at the stage of admission as the Investigating Agency contemplated issuing the notice under section 41A CrPC to him asking him to join the investigation as required.

Later, as per the summons issued by the CID, Mr. Lokesh attended the investigation for a couple of days. The CID maintained that it served the 41A notice with certain conditions, which he violated now during his interviews with the TV channels.

The CID informed the court that Mr. Lokesh specifically violated a condition that reads, "You will not make any threat, inducement, or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the court or to the police officer".

It further alleged that Mr. Lokesh deliberately and consciously made the statements in multiple interviews given to the news TV channels, with the objective of intimidating the witnesses.

RSS office vandalised at Pandalam in Kerala; police launch probe

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The police have launched a probe into the incident in which unidentified miscreants vandalised an office of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Pandalam in Kerala on Friday.

According to officials, the miscreants reached the RSS office on motorcycles around half past midnight and resorted to indiscriminate stone throwing.

By the time a police team reached the spot, they fled the scene. Several windowpanes of the office were damaged in the attack.

Preliminary investigations pointed to the incident as an extension of a raging clash between activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Students Federation of India (SFI) at the NSS College, Pandalam. The clash, which began with the SFI hoisting a banner against the Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, escalated into a direct fight with the ABVP launching a counter campaign. The clash culminated into a physical fight between the two sides, on the college campus, during the Christmas celebrations organised by the institution the previous day.

PUBLIC NOTICE
DOCUMENT MISSING
Notice is hereby given that the Original Allotment Letter issued by the then CITB, Now BDA, in respect of the immovable property No. 1340, PID No. 72-4-1340, situated at Binnamangala II Stage, Bengaluru, our client on 15/12/2023, has unfortunately lost aforesaid Original document and the same is not traceable. If anybody is in possession of the Original Document relating to the said property they are requested to hand over the same to the below address.
H.V. NAVEEN KUMAR RAO &
H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street,
Near Commercial Street, Bengaluru-560001
Mob : 9341380225

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha **"e" Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-26/2023-24
No.: 7637 / Dt.: 19/12/23

Nature of work	:- Bridge Work & Buildings Works
Number of works	:- 2 Nos Bridge Work & 1 No Buildings Works
Amount put to Tender	:- Rs.547.42 Lakh to 997.42 Lakh
Class of Contractor	:- "Special" Class & "A" Class
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal	:- Dt.27.12.2023 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	:- Dt.10.01.2024 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid	:- Dt.11.01.2024 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore.

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**http//tendersodisha.gov.in**". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/- R.Rout, Chief Engineer (Civil), Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
B-1492: OIPR-34026/11/0027/2324

Government of India (Min. Of Railways)
Research Designs and Standards Organisation
Manak Nagar, Lucknow - 226 011
Open E -Tender Notice No. TG_Dynamo_Horiba_AMC_2023
Open E- Tender No. **TG_Dynamo_Horiba_AMC_2023** is invited by Joint Director/Testing/Labs, Testing Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow on behalf of President of India for following Works:

Description of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)
"Rehabilitation/One Time Repair of "Horiba" make Brake Dynamometer Machine including 03 years CAMC installed at Brake Dynamometer Lab of RDSO, Lucknow"	**3,20,96,000/-**	**3,10,500/-**
	Cost of Tender Form: NIL	

- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
- The tenderer must have Class-III Digital Signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer can participate in e-tendering.
- Tender Closing Date & Time: **29.01.2024** up to **15:00 Hrs**.
- Tender Opening Date and Time: **29.01.2024** at **15:30** hrs.
- The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.**
- Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Joint Director/Testing/Lab//RDSO/Lucknow

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E- Tender Notice No. 41/2023 Dated: 14-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:
Description in Brief:- Supply of fan less industrial grade embedded PC (Similar to moxa v2406 or better) with all accessories such as keyboard, mouse, Antivirus etc of industrial grade as per RDSO TAN No. STS/TAN/3007 Version 1.0 or latest).
(Qty. 34 Nos.) Tender No. L8236076B
Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 08-01-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
Bengaluru
PUB/571/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi
(email Id : se_sicpkd@yahoo.com)
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEVNB-06/2023-24

1.	Type of Works	Flood Protection works
2.	Total number of Packages	7 (Seven) Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.159.99 lakhs to Rs.499.55 lakhs
4.	Bid Identification No.	ACE, VNB (GID)-03/2023-24 to ACE, VNB (GID)-06/2023-24 and ACE, VNB (RID)-02/2023-24 to ACE, VNB (RID)-04/2023-24
5.	Period of completion	9 (Nine) to 11 (Eleven) Calendar months
6.	Availability & submission of Bids online	From 11.00 AM of 27.12.2023 to 5.00 PM of 11.01.2024
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	12.01.2024 at 11.00 AM. in the, O/O the Additional Chief Engineer, VansadharaNagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
8.	Procurement Officer	Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
9	Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** and any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation will be published in the said website.	

Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
A-1070: OIPR-32417/11/0010/2324

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph:04324-277001 (10 Lines). E-Mail: pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
232413 006057	Renewal of BT road from Bagasse gate to Coal handling plant weigh bridge, gas Plant weigh Bridge, bagasse tippler side roads and damaged BT road patch works at TNPL Unit-I	05.01.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at websites: **https://www.tnpl.com/tender/ https://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/6789/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is informed that my client **Sangati Yallamanda Reddy s/o Kotireddy (alias) Kotaiah,** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein under, from Jayadev R Devagiri **("Seller/ Vendor").** The "Seller/ Vendor" represents and warrant that he is the sole owner of the schedule property and he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Vendor/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of residential **Plot No.25,** measuring East to West on Northern Side 40ft, and on Southern Side 40 ft 2 inches on the Eastern Side31 ft 5 inches and on Western side28 ft 7 inches, totally measuring 1201sqft, carved out of Sy no.4/3 and 4/4, total land measuring 1 acre 20 guntas, converted for residential use, all situated at **B Narayanapura Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore Urban District, East by : Road, West by : Road, North by : Site No.26, South by : Land in Sy No.4/2**
Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere
Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 23-12-2023

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. : SNTGSUWATOT DUALMSDAC0823, Dt. 18.12.2023
Name of the Work : PROVISION OF MSDAC FOR DUAL DETECTION SYSTEM IN SIMHACHALAM NORTH (SCMN)-VIZIANAGRAM JN (VZM) AUTO SIGNALLING SECTION OF WALTAIR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 12,09,48,873.20, EMD: **₹ 7,54,800/-,** Period of Completion : **06 Months.**
Date & time of tender closing/opening: At 1600 hrs. on 08.01.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 07 (Seven) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom
PR-915/O/23-24 | Engineer/GSU/Waltair

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MRS.PANKAJA SRIDHAR W/o. Mr. Sridhar H S** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MRS.YOSHODHA W/o. Mr. Shiva Shanker** ; any person/s, Bank, Company etc objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof **on or before 27.12.2023** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property being Northern Portion of Vacant Site No.96, BBMP Katha Sl. No.7599, Comprised in Property No.558/2, Situated at Kalkere Village K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 59 Feet and on the Southern Side 57.5 Feet [59+ 57.5]/2, North to South 40 Feet, in all Measuring 2330 Square Feet, (BBMP) Ward No.26, and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Site No.45, North by : Site No.95, South by : Remaining Portion of Site No.96
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878 • e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,
Project Name: **Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for Beautification of Topchanchi Lake and Nearby areas.**
NIT No.: **JUIDCO/NIT/RFP/TL/23-24/576**
PR. No.: **312967** Tender ID: **2023_UDD_78631_1**
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in tender documents for **"Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for Beautification of Topchanchi Lake and Nearby areas".**
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.
Corrigendum - 1

Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per Tender Document	As per Corrigendum - 1
1.	NIT	Last Date/Time for submission of online bids	22.12.2023 17:00 Hrs.	29.12.2023 17:00 Hrs.
2.		Date & Time of Online Bid Opening	22.12.2023 17:30 Hrs.	29.12.2023 17:30 Hrs.

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.
PR 314153 (Urban Development and Housing) 23-24 (D)

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED MPPHSCL
(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL: https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 22.12.2023
TENDER NOTICE
Global Tender for Quantity contracts of following item/Services floated on Portal & website dated 22.12.2023 :
1. Online Global Tender Enquiry No.: T-526/MPPHSCL/ Radiotherapy Equipment Linac (Dual Energy) & CT-Simulator/ QC/2023, uploaded on dated 22-12-2023 Portal and Website.
All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **"www.mptenders.gov.in./https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in"** for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/112934/2023 **CGM (Technical-II)**

Two down

Testing time for the DMK as senior functionary is found guilty of corruption

The conviction of senior Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) functionary K. Ponmudy, leading to his losing his position in the Tamil Nadu Cabinet, is a rare instance of a serving Minister being found guilty of corruption when his own party is in power. Any verdict that punishes tainted public servants and dislodges them from office should be seen as salutary. In Mr. Ponmudy's case, one will have to await the outcome of his expected appeal in the Supreme Court, which will have to decide whether to uphold his acquittal by the trial court or its reversal by the Madras High Court. As of now, he and his wife have been given a sentence, suspended for 30 days, of three years in prison and a fine of ₹50 lakh, for holding unexplained assets of ₹1.72 crore. The case dates back to his stint in the DMK ministry from 2006-2011, and the investigation and prosecution were conducted under an All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regime. Mr. Ponmudy is also under scrutiny by the Enforcement Directorate which is probing the money-laundering aspect of an accusation that he gave illegal licences to his son and relatives for red sand mining. He is the second Minister to lose his portfolio after V. Senthil Balaji, who is in jail in another money-laundering case.

A key aspect of his appeal would be whether the court was right in reversing the trial judge's finding that Mr. Ponmudy and his wife P. Visalakshi should be treated as assessees independent of each other and that vigilance investigators erred in clubbing their incomes to demonstrate that their combined income and expenditure did not account for about 65% of the assets standing in their names. Justice G. Jayachandran has questioned the claim that Ms. Visalakshi had independent sources of business and agricultural income and criticised the trial judge for accepting belatedly filed tax returns containing "bloated income". The judge's view that a mere income claim cannot be accepted without actual sales and profit figures for businesses run by her appears reasonable. He has upheld the prosecution's expert witnesses who assessed her agricultural income, based on cultivable land holdings, at a far lower level than the income she had claimed in her returns. For the ruling DMK, the conviction of one of its deputy general secretaries at a time when it is facing a barrage of corruption charges, is an undoubted political setback. The party will be hoping that Mr. Ponmudy gets relief from the Supreme Court in the form of a suspension of conviction to overcome his disqualification. However, a stay on conviction is quite rare in corruption cases. Involvement of senior leaders in corruption charges is certain to affect the public confidence in the DMK government.

Awards for words

The Sahitya Akademi must do more to promote Indian literature

Literary borders should be porous and the Sahitya Akademi awards, which have been honouring writers of 24 Indian languages down the years, should be seen in that light. This year the Akademi has picked nine books of poems, six novels, five short stories, three essays and one literary study in Dogri, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Manipuri, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Santali and others. It is a prize to be welcomed just for the sheer linguistic diversity it acknowledges in a country where there is a change in dialect every few square kilometres, and no dearth of marginalised communities or languages facing extinction. The possibilities are immense: in a country where not everyone has the ability to whip up a PR frenzy, a Sahitya Akademi award is encouragement to keep pursuing the craft; writers can expect to see a rise in sales and be taught in schools and universities; and readers can hope to discover some hidden gems. Writers also have the opportunity to be translated into other regional languages, and into English too. Neelum Saran Gour, who has won this year for her English novel, *Requiem in Raga Janki*, which had also bagged The Hindu Fiction Prize in 2018, can look forward to her story being translated into other Indian languages.

However, it is a pity that the Sahitya Akademi awards, first conferred in 1955, do not have top-of-the-mind recall such as the Booker Prize or the Pulitzer. The National Academy of Letters was established in 1954 and its stated goal was to be "the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English". To that end, the Sahitya Akademi does hold lectures, readings, discussions, exchange programmes, and workshops, including all communities, but it is so woefully promoted that few get to know of the programmes. Though the Sahitya Akademi award is the pinnacle, there are other awards such as the Bal Sahitya award, the Yuva Puraskar and the Bhasha Samman or translation prize. But not enough is being done to promote its activities. The Akademi's website is not updated and is bristling with grammatical errors; its social media presence is abysmal. It has brought out thousands of books, but the fact is that the publications, though affordable, are hard to come by. At a time when children particularly are glued to screens and losing their reading habits, the Sahitya Akademi with its extensive network should do more to spread the word about India's rich literary tradition.

Israel is fighting in the dark in Gaza

Stanly Johny

"The Jewish state would form a part of a wall of defence for Europe in Asia, an outpost of civilisation against barbarism," Theodor Herzl, one of the founders of modern political Zionism, wrote in *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State), a pamphlet published in 1896. In the pamphlet, he argued that security for Jews could be guaranteed only by the creation of a separate national state for them, and requested the Ottoman Sultan to give Palestine to the Jews. He promised, in return, to undertake the regulations of the whole of Turkey's finances. The movement Herzl began culminated in the creation of the state of Israel in historical Palestine in 1948. More than 75 years later, the civilisational outpost Herzl had imagined, which continues its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, is fighting a calamitous war on the Gaza Strip.

In just 10 weeks, Israel, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calls the "people of light", has killed 20,000 Palestinians, a vast majority of them women and children, wounded over 50,000 and displaced almost 90% of the enclave's population. While Israel has managed to turn Gaza into what the United Nations called a "graveyard for children and a living hell for everyone else", it also faces questions on whether it is meeting its objectives after two and a half months of bombing and invasion.

Israel's objectives

Israel had two declared objectives when it launched the attack on Gaza, which followed Hamas's October 7 cross-border raid in which at least 1,200 Israelis were killed, most of them civilians. One was to free the hostages – Hamas had taken some 240 hostages during its raid. And the other, as repeatedly claimed by Mr. Netanyahu and his Ministers, was to "dismantle" Hamas. A third, undeclared, but self-evident, objective was to rebuild Israel's deterrence so that another October 7 would not happen.

On paper these were achievable goals. In terms of military capabilities, Hamas does not stand even for a distant comparison with Israel, West Asia's most powerful country. A nuclear power and a developed economy, which is politically and militarily backed by the United States, Israel, equipped with some of the world's most advanced offensive and defensive weapons, had taken quick victories in the past against its conventional rivals. Israel also controls all of Gaza's border except the Rafah crossing in the south into Egypt. Hamas, on the other side, has roughly 50,000 fighters with assault rifles and short- to medium-range rockets. Unsurprisingly, Israel has showered fire and fury on Gaza. But is it close to dismantling Hamas?

Before the war began, Israel had said Hamas leaders in Gaza, especially Yahya Sinwar and Mohamed Deif, were dead men walking. Apparently, they are still walking. So far, Israel has managed to free only one hostage through its military operation (it shot dead three hostages by mistake). The over 100 hostages who were released were part of a brief ceasefire deal that Israel had struck with Hamas. When Israel launched its ground invasion, its initial thrust was into northern Gaza, which pushed over one million people towards the south. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claimed that the Al Shifa hospital, Gaza's largest medical facility, in the north, had hosted a top Hamas command centre in underground bunkers. The IDF stormed the hospital in November despite a global uproar, but is yet to show any evidence that Hamas's top command was based in the hospital.

Asymmetric wars

While Israel has an excellent track record against its conventional rivals in the region, its record against non-state actors has always been mixed. Israel has not fought a conventional war in 50 years. In 1982, when it invaded Lebanon to push the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) out of the country, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said the war would bring "40 years of peace". But the war itself lasted 18 years, even after Israel pushed the PLO out of Lebanon. In 2006, it invaded Lebanon again, this time to crush Hezbollah. After a month of intense ground battle, Israel had to accept a ceasefire, leaving Hezbollah politically stronger. Ever since, Hezbollah has rebuilt its military strength many times. After it withdrew from Gaza in 2005 following the second intifada, Israel carried out at least four major bombing campaigns in the enclave, barring the current war, aimed at weakening Hamas, Still, it could not prevent the October 7 attack, the deadliest cross-border attack since 1948.

In the current war, Israel's main narrative is that Hamas is like the Islamic State (IS). Just as the physical structures of the IS was destroyed, Israel wants Hamas to be destroyed as well. But this sweeping narrative overlooks some fundamental complexities in West Asia. The IS, essentially an Islamist death cult, was an outgrowth of al-Qaeda which exploited the chaos and mayhem in the region to capture territories and spread terror. The IS, which imposed itself on the peoples of Syria and Iraq from the top, was extremely unpopular and lacked any social or political cause. A vast majority of the IS's victims were Muslims and Muslim armies, be it the Kurds, Syrian troops, Iran-backed Shia militias or the Iraqi army, were in the forefront of the battle against the IS.

Israel's main narrative is that Hamas is like the Islamic State, but this sweeping claim overlooks some fundamental complexities in West Asia

But in the case of Israel-Palestine, the fundamental contradiction is Israel's continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories. Hamas might be a terrorist outfit for Israel and its western allies, but for a vast majority of other regional actors, it is fighting Israel's violent occupation. Hamas has a social and political cause – the liberation of Palestine – and is deeply entrenched in Palestinian society. This makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to dismantle Hamas through military means, at least as long as Israel continues the occupation of Palestinian territories.

Hamas's goals

This time, Hamas appears to be more prepared and planned for a long resistance against the Israelis. Its strategy is to deny Israel a quick military victory – or just to survive – which it thinks would be politically self beneficial. A long war would expose Israel's weaknesses, which it already does. Israel has mobilised some 3,00,000 reservists, which is adding stress to its economy. Hamas, which uses Gaza's extensive tunnel networks to hide and fight, continues to fire rockets into Israel, terrorising communities and disrupting local economies. The high civilian casualties and the sheer brutality of Israel's offensive in Gaza have isolated the Jewish state globally. The U.S. still stands with Israel, but recent remarks by U.S. President Joe Biden that Israel's "indiscriminate bombing" would isolate it globally suggests that even Washington is coming under pressure. The Arab-Israel normalisation, on which Mr. Biden was betting big until recently, is dead, at least for now. And the Houthis, the pro-Iran Shia rebels who control much of Yemen, are widening the war by targeting tankers in the Red Sea, threatening one of the busiest global shipping lanes and drawing the U.S. deeper into the conflict. West Asia is now a tinderbox.

If Israel's objective is to kill as many Palestinians as possible and turn Gaza inhabitable without caring for the consequences, its invasion is on track. But if its objective is to eradicate Hamas, free hostages and bolster its own deterrence, the Jewish state is nowhere close to meeting those goals, even after 10 weeks of one of the most intense bombing campaigns of the century.

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Telecom law upgrades for a digital authoritarian state

Apar Gupta

is an advocate and technology policy professional

The tweet by the Union Minister for Communications, Ashwini Vaishnav, "Bharat moves on...", on Thursday evening, December 21, 7.58 p.m., announced the parliamentary passage of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023 and the repeal of The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. under the, "vision of the PM @naredramodi Ji". Notice the intentional use of the word "Bharat" in isolation, and the omission of, "India". Similarly, crediting the Prime Minister's individual "vision" is by design. Similarly, crediting the Prime Minister's individual "vision" is by design. This is not peculiar to the Telecom Bill, 2023 and draws from a common brand kit used for claiming credit for any, and every event by the Union Government. Put together, they are a clever call of cultural nativism for Indians, finally realising their manifest destiny under the leadership of one man. It programmes us to believe that we finally have a Union government that represents the interests of the masses in tarpaulin covered *chaupals* rather than those of the sniggering urban elites sipping *chai lattes*. This facade and diversion have successfully cloaked scrutiny of the Telecom Bill which is a system upgrade of colonial laws for a digital authoritarian state.

Ignoring the digital divide

Let us start by looking at the unique "*bharatiya*" provisions of the Telecom Bill. Even at the time of public consultation, the explanatory memorandum to the draft compared spectrum to a human soul as described in the Bhagavad Gita. Indic influence has found its way in the Telecom Bill with the renaming of the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) as the "Digital Bharat Nidhi". The USOF, which is a levy on telecom service providers (Reliance Jio or Airtel), funds projects such as rural connectivity, has seen little structural change from the way it was designed under the Telegraph Act, 1885. The mere change in name does little to address the challenges of a persisting digital divide that have recently become worse. As in reports by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the growth of new telecom users has sharply stagnated and research reports from the International Data Corporation show a contraction of smartphone sales for the second consecutive year. Here, with nationalistic chest beating, the Telecom Bill distracts us from its failure to present any fresh ideas or solutions. Will renaming the USOF magically lead to millions of Indians gaining Internet access?

The Telecom Bill 2023 extends the colonial architecture of regulation to digital authoritarianism, marking India's transformation to a 'rashtra'

Innovation, when present, increases the discretionary power of the government to pick and choose private firms as "national champions". For instance take the provisions for the allocation of satellite spectrum without the need for auctions that are listed in the First Schedule of the Telecom Bill. This is likely to benefit the market entry of select private firms as questioned by Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, Priyanka Chaturvedi. She said, "[g]uess who will soon step into Mobile Satellite Services from India?" while linking to an article dated August 5, 2023, titled "ISRO Transfers Satellite Bus Technology To Adani Group's Alpha Design Technologies". Even provisions for "regulatory sandboxes" and online dispute resolution systems are likely to benefit large corporations rather than Indian users due to the prevailing oligopoly in the telecom sector.

Modern authoritarianism

State control is present throughout the Telecom Act without any change made to the colonial architecture. Changes within it are a clever rewording of phrases. For instance, "licensing" has been changed to "authorisation" while making it more severe. This has been achieved by a studied definitional vagueness of "telecommunication" and "telecommunication services" that will include "transmission... of any messages". Read together, this will allow the Union government to license Over-The-Top (OTT) messaging applications such as WhatsApp or email services such as Gmail. This power will, in the coming years, be used alongside other regulations to break the security and confidentiality enjoyed by Indians by using encryption-based messaging.

The same pattern is repeated for the interception and surveillance powers, or Internet shutdowns, in which language from the Telegraph Bill has been plagiarised without safeguards. Insertions, when present, such as a fresh provision on "national security", expand the ability of the Union government to use, prescribe standards, suspend and take over any telecommunication service. Here, just like before, the phrase "national security" has not been defined. To ensure the web of a surveillance state is complete, the law requires any telecommunications service provider, that may include WhatsApp or Signal, to identify the user by "any verifiable biometric based identification as may be prescribed". To further ensure that every Indian complies, a standard "*kartavya kaal*" clause has been added in which there is a legal penalty of ₹25,000 for providing "any false particulars, suppress any material information", and, "fail to share information as required by this Act". Many of these concerns were raised to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha by Member of Parliament Gaurav Gogoi where in a brief one page letter, dated December 19, 2023, he called for "sending it to a Standing Committee". Instead, the Telecom Bill was passed in haste through both Houses of Parliament.

Constitutional charade

Neither Ms. Chaturvedi or Mr. Gogoi could raise their objections in Parliament or cast their votes. They could not even raise symbolic cries of "shame, shame, shame" as they along with at least two thirds of their fellow Members of the Opposition benches have been suspended. Commenting on the parliamentary session, Pratap Bhanu Mehta states in an article, "this formal language of democracy serves increasingly to provide a constitutional veneer to what is in effect, an unconstitutional concentration of power...." His lament is justified, for as Milan W. Svolik has empirically demonstrated in *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*, 80% of dictatorial countries surveyed from 1946-2008 held elections for legislatures to "facilitate power-sharing among a regime's elite".

Now, where does this leave the ordinary Indian, or should we say *bharatwasis*? We are being regularly reminded not to ponder over these disturbing questions and instead maintain health and sanity with a diet full of millets and a daily yoga practice. After all, we are undergoing a transformation of a colony to a *rashtra*, where the rule under the Constitution of India is being replaced to governance by scripture under the divine vision of the Prime Minister. As the Telecom Bill shows, India has indeed moved on, however it is far from democracy.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High Court's reference

I write this letter as a senior advocate and former Advocate-General of Tamil Nadu. C.N. Annadurai and M.G. Ramachandran were the only Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu for whom full court reference was made by the Madras High Court on their passing. The then Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice M. Anantanarayanan, made a reference speech, on February 5, 1969, on C.N. Annadurai, while Chief Justice M.N. Chandurkar made a reference speech, on January 4, 1988, on M.G. Ramachandran.

Tomorrow, on December 24, Tamil Nadu will pay homage to M.G.R. On a personal note, I can say that M.G.R. had tremendous faith in the judiciary and the rule of law, having witnessed his functioning in close quarters. When the issue of parity of scales of pay of various officers of the Registry of the High Court with the scales of pay of equivalent post in the Secretariat remained unresolved for almost 25 years, he ordered parity, after fathoming the injustice done to the staff of the Madras High Court.

His novel scheme to provide at least one good meal to poor and destitute children received recognition from the World Bank. It is a million dollar question whether Tamil Nadu will witness a legend like M.G.R, again to preside over the destinies of its people.

K. Subramanian,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Weddings, guns, funerals

Despite being a punishable offence, the practice of celebratory firings at weddings and parties continues to thrive in parts of north India, claiming lives and injuring scores of people. The easy availability of alcohol and the rise of gun culture can prove to be a deadly combination. **Amit Bhelari** and **Mayank Kumar** report from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on how celebratory firings are resulting in deaths, including of children

It was past midnight on May 19 when Ankush Yadav, 13, left home to attend *tilak*, a male-dominated ceremony held at the groom's house before a wedding. The event was being conducted just 200 metres from Ankush's house in Thallu Bigha village in Ghoshi block of Jehanabad district, Bihar. While red vermillion was applied on the foreheads of the men, the women who had been called to entertain the 500-odd guests began dancing on stage.

As Bhojpuri music blared on, alochol flowed freely, and the tent throbbed with life, Ankush went up on stage. Minutes later, deafening sounds rang through the night and Ankush, a student of Class 7, suddenly dropped to the floor. A man called Priyanshu Kumar had fired a shot from a country-made gun and the bullet had hit Ankush's stomach, say the police.

Recalling the events of that tragic night, 35-year-old Kusum Devi, Ankush's mother, says a villager rushed to their house and informed them of the incident. When she ran to the spot, the place was pitch dark and quiet. The tent where the performers and guests in sparkly clothes were dancing energetically just moments ago was deserted.

"I walked 100 meters and saw a black Marshal car," Kusum says. "I asked the people standing near it about my son. Initially they said that they didn't know anything, but I could hear his voice. He was in pain."

When Kusum peered into the car, she saw Ankush lying on the back seat in a pool of blood. The villagers told her that he had suffered a small injury and that they were taking him to the hospital. "They did not allow me to touch my son," she says. "They drove away. I waited, but they didn't return." After two hours, the police reached the spot. They informed her that Ankush was dead and that his body had been sent for postmortem.

The practice of celebratory firings, where men fire shots in the air at weddings and birthday parties, is common in north India, especially in Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Though a punishable offence inviting imprisonment of up to two years, a fine of ₹1 lakh, or both, the dangerous practice continues to thrive, claiming lives and injuring scores of people. According to police data, celebratory firings in Bihar claimed 19 lives just between January and November this year, besides leaving over 35 injured. The maximum number of cases were reported in the Shahabad region, which includes the Bhojpur, Rohtas, and Kaimur districts. In 2022, 99 incidents of celebratory firings claimed eight lives and left 36 injured. But official figures seldom include incidents which take place in rural areas, which are never reported unless the video footage goes viral.

> People show their strength to maintain hegemony in society. They used to demonstrate muscle power in earlier times; now, they use weapons. This is a feudalistic practice. It glorifies the image of the macho man.
>
> **B.N. PRASAD**
> Professor of Sociology, Patna

Rekha Devi, 23, holds the photo of her husband Subhash Yadav, who was shot dead during celebratory firing at a wedding in Tetariahi village of Badhara panchayat in Supaul district, Bihar. NAGENDRA KUMAR SINGH

'A status symbol'

Kusum's biggest regret is that Ankush was not treated on time. She says he was alive for an hour after he was hit by the bullet, but died because he was not taken to the nearest hospital, 20 kilometres from the village.

Ankush's uncle Biranj Yadav, who accompanied his nephew to the event but left early, says, "Many people were on stage with the dancer. All of them were drunk. Some of them were waving their guns. Later, one of them fired a shot, which hit Ankush."

Thirty-eight-year-old Suchit Yadav, Ankush's father, is a farmer with 2 kathas of land (6.26 decimals). After taking a loan from his landlords, Suchit constructed a four-room house with ₹2 lakh. "I was hoping to paint the house by Diwali, but I lost my son before that. His room was next to mine. Today, it is empty. Who will stay in this room now," he says weeping.

The room is empty except for a wooden cot and a grass cutter. Outside the house, Suchit's buffalo and calf stare ahead listlessly. Suchit, whose only source of income is farming, is now left with one son, Luv Kush Yadav, 11.

Suchit was not at home when the incident happened. "I was in Kanpur selling vegetables. My wife told me about it and I returned to the village. I will never go back to Kanpur," he says.

Thallu Bigha village falls under Lakhawar Panchayat. The panchayat head, Vijay Shao, terms the incident "unfortunate." He says he has been pleading with the villagers not to engage in celebratory firings. "But who listens," he shrugs. "Celebratory firings are a status symbol."

The police say three rounds were fired on stage that night. Priyanshu, the accused, is the brother of the groom. The Ghosi police have arrested Priyanshu and his father Mithlesh Yadav. According to a villager, Mithlesh attempted to reach a compromise with the victim's family by offering a sum of ₹4 lakh. But Suchit was firm that he would fight the case. The two accused have been charged under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Arms Act, 1959. Both the father and son are in jail. The case is still going on.

'Our family is ruined'

In Kotiya Pure Dhani village in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Ajay Kumar was setting up a tent for *haldi*, a pre-wedding ceremony where turmeric is applied on the bride and groom's body, at the house of Phul Chandra Dubey on the evening of December 8. Dubey's daughter was to get married the next day. As the guests danced to racy tunes, Pintu Mishra, Dubey's nephew, suddenly fired shots in the air with a licensed pistol. Chaos ensued as Ajay fell down, unconscious. He had been shot in the head. He died the same day while getting treated at a government hospital in Prayagraj, 60 km away. Ajay was only 16.

"Our family is ruined," says Suresh, Ajay's father, a resident of the neighbouring Kundanpur village. "Ajay shared all the responsibilities of the family." Suresh, a Dalit labourer with no ancestral land, says his son dreamed of starting his own work in the tent market after saving some money.

Pintu, 28, was charged under provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and Section 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC.

Just 140 km from Kotiya Pure Dhani village, in Qaiserbagh locality in Lucknow, Ayush Khare, 22, an undergraduate dropout who worked at a private firm, was killed during a pre-wedding ceremony of his friend's sister. Ayush was the only child. During the festivities on December 10, Ayush got into an altercation with 24-year-old Tuskar Sonkar, a resident of Qaiserbagh with a criminal record. Tuskar took out a pistol and fired at Ayush, who died on the spot.

"Tushar is a history sheeter. He couldn't believe that someone would dare to challenge him. He killed Ayush in a fit of anger," says Sudhakar Singh, Inspector at the Qaiserbagh police station in Lucknow.

The police say celebratory firings take place irrespective of the communities to which the men belong. India's rising gun culture and the easy availability of alcohol can prove to be a deadly combination, they contend.

Rajesh Pandey, a police official in Uttar Pradesh, says, "In my career spanning 35 years, I have seen at least 300 cases of celebratory firing where people have suffered injuries or died. Most of these cases came from rural areas. The accused were almost always intoxicated."

In Uttar Pradesh, at least 15 such incidents in the last 11 months have led to injuries or death. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2021, 71 deaths were reported due to accidental firing in the State. The prevalence of celebratory firings forced the Allahabad High Court to act in 2014. Taking note of the gun culture during celebrations, the Court banned the issuing of arms licences by the district administration barring exceptional cases of threat. It added that private citizens possess nearly five times the number of guns compared to the Uttar Pradesh police. The Court stopped Uttar Pradesh from issuing arms licences after it emerged that 5,730 people with licensed guns were facing criminal charges, most of which related to celebratory firings. However, the Court lifted its ban in November 2017 after gun sellers petitioned it saying their business had nearly shut.

Suchit Yadav, 38, and Kusum Devi, 35, lost their son Ankush in celebratory firing in Thallu Bigha village in Ghoshi block in Jehanabad district, Bihar. NAGENDRA KUMAR SINGH

> In my career spanning 35 years, I have seen at least 300 cases of celebratory firing where people have suffered injuries or died. Most of these cases came from rural areas. The accused were almost always intoxicated.
>
> **RAJESH PANDEY**
> Police officer, Uttar Pradesh

'Our dreams are shattered'

On May 3, Subhash Yadav, 24, a male dancer, was shot dead in Tetariahi village of Badhara panchayat in Supaul district, 253 km from Patna. Yadav used to dance wearing women's clothes – a folk form called Launda Nach. His death has left his wife, Rekha Devi, 23, distraught and financially insecure. She now has to take care of their three children on her own.

Three days after the incident, Vipin Yadav, the brother of the groom, was arrested by the police and charged under Section 302 of the IPC and provisions of the Arms Act. Months later, his brother-in-law Pankaj Yadav was also arrested. Shubhash's father Suresh says Vipin and Pankaj were demanding that his son dance to a song of their choice. Vipin fired a shot from a country-made gun, and the bullet struck Subhash on the chest, he says.

"My son was an artist. He used to earn ₹5,000-8,000 at every wedding. He was interested in dancing from the age of 10 and I encouraged him. That was also the reason why he only studied till Class 5. I regret that he agreed to dance at that wedding," says Phulia Devi, 45, Subhash's mother.

Rekha Devi says the couple had been married for six years and were very happy. "Whenever he performed at a wedding, he would bring home food and gifts. He wanted our children to get government jobs. He wanted our youngest son, born last year, to become a successful officer. Our dreams are shattered," she cries.

A few months ago, Subhash had bought a sewing machine for Rekha so that she could learn tailoring and contribute to the family's finances. After the death of her husband, she has not touched the machine.

Gultan Yadav, Subhash's maternal uncle, says, "One day before the *baraat* (the groom's wedding procession), Anil had come home and asked Subhash to dance. He agreed; he was happy that he'd get some money. Who knew that such an unfortunate incident would take place?" He says the family has spent ₹2.5 lakh in fighting the case. In this incident too, the man who fired the gun in the dry State of Bihar was drunk.

The use of country-made guns

Brandishing guns and firing shots is seen as a sign of masculinity, says B.N. Prasad, Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the A.N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna. "Not only dominant castes, but other castes including Other Backward Classes also engage in the practice. Every emerging caste wants to carry forward the dominance power structure. People show their strength to maintain hegemony in society. They used to demonstrate muscle power in earlier times; now, they use weapons. This is a feudalistic practice. It glorifies the image of the macho man," he says.

As many deaths and injuries have taken place due to celebratory firings, the Bihar Police have come up with a new set of guidelines. "The organisers of all social functions have to sign a declaration form that no firearm will be used. Members from both the bride and groom's side are asked to give an undertaking that weapons, including licensed ones, will not be used," says Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Sanjay Singh. He says 100 people have been arrested and 21 arms have been seized in 2023 in connection with cases of celebratory firing. In such cases, the Superintendents of Police have been asked to cancel the licence of arms with the order of the District Magistrate and ensure that no licence is given in the future.

Amit Anand, the owner of Capital Gun House in Patna, says they provide arms to people only after verifying the documents with the District Magistrate's office. "We don't know how the buyers use them. That is not our job. Our business is already down; we only sell 2-3 guns every quarter," he says.

Navin Kumar, a gun seller, says it is difficult to get an arms licence in India. "People have to go through several procedures to get the licence. That is why people purchase country-made guns which do not require any documents," he says.

In most cases of celebratory firing, country-made guns called *katta* are used. These are available for ₹2,000-3,000. On the condition of anonymity, an illegal gun seller in Patna, says, "The demand for guns goes up during the wedding season. That is when we make good profits. Sometimes, I even sell a *katta* for ₹5,000. This wedding season I sold 20 guns. We also sell cartridges for ₹200-300."

In the last nine months, the Bihar Police have unearthed over 28 mini gun factories that were running illegally in different districts and seized around 2,800 illegal weapons and over 18.000 live cartridges.

Doctors say they have dealt with many bullet injuries over the years. In the last 10 years, Dr. Kamendra Kumar Singh of Rohtas district, who is posted at the Narayan Medical College and also runs his own clinic Karuna Hospital in Bikramganj, has treated more than 450 cases of celebratory firing. "Initially, when they come to the hospital, they make excuses saying they got injured during an act of self-defence. It is during the police investigation that we learn that it was a case of celebratory firing," he says. Most victims are young, adds the doctor.

Prasad says Bihar is still a semi-feudal society, which explains the trend. "Only when we move from a feudal system to a system of modern values will the problem stop," he says.

From Page One

Govt. stifling voice of Opposition: INDIA bloc

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the government was answerable to Parliament. "Our Constitution gives sovereignty to the people of India, which is implemented through our representatives. The government is answerable to Parliament and MPs are answerable to the people. This is the summary of our democracy," he said.

Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja said the government was trying to make Parliament redundant. "If you eliminate opposition by hook or by crook, you are making Parliament redundant. If Parliament becomes redundant, democracy dies," he said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Jha called it a fight to save democracy. "When the Prime Minister goes to foreign countries, he says he comes from the mother of democracy. How are you going to say it now, after suspending 146 MPs," he said.

DMK Rajya Sabha floor leader Tiruchi Siva accused the government of dismantling the federal structure of the Constitution. "On one end, they stifle our voices and on the other the Governors appointed by the BJP obstruct the functioning of the elected State governments," he said.

Assam-Meghalaya panels on boundary dispute to submit reports by Dec. 31

The two States settled their disputes in six of 12 sectors in March 2022 in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.; the disputes have persisted since Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The regional committees on the boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya have been asked to submit their reports by December 31, a Meghalaya government official said on Friday.

Assam and Meghalaya had 12 disputed sectors along their 884.9-km boundary. The disputes in six of these sectors were settled through an agreement signed on March 29, 2022, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The six disputed sectors that remain are Langpih, Borduar, Nongwah-Mawtamur, Deshdoomreah, Block-I, Block-II, and Psiar-Khanduli.

Three regional committees for three districts were set up by both States to study the disputed sectors, meet the stakeholders, and submit a report to their respective governments.

Strained borders: People waiting at the Assam-Meghalaya boundary on the outskirts of Guwahati. FILE PHOTO

'Extended time'

"In pursuance of the decision of the Chief Minister-level meeting on the Assam-Meghalaya border held on September 30, the government has extended the time for submission of the report by the three regional committees to December 31," a notification issued by Meghalaya's Chief Secretary, D.P. Wahlang said earlier this week.

Two Deputy Chief Ministers – Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhalang Dhar – are heading the regional committees for Ri-Bhoi and West Jaintia Hills districts, respectively, while Minister Paul Lyngdoh is the chairman of the regional panel for the West Khasi Hills district.

The boundary dispute between the two States has persisted since Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972. At least a dozen people have been killed in these disputes.

Other disputes

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh also resolved their boundary disputes over 37 of 123 villages with the signing of the Namsai Declaration between Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu on July 15, 2022.

Assam also has an ongoing boundary dispute with Mizoram and Nagaland.

Court denies bail to AAP MP in Delhi excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The AAP leader, Sanjay Singh, was arrested and charged under provisions of the PMLA

A Delhi court on Friday denied bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. The court also extended the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the case.

Special judge for Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases M.K. Nagpal dismissed the bail plea moved by Mr. Singh, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on October 4 and charged under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The court on Friday extended his custody till January 10. The ED probe is based on a case registered by the CBI.

"In view of the discussions and considering the oral and documentary evidence in entirety, which has been collected against the applicant during investigation and placed on record of the court... this court is of *prima facie* view that the case against the applicant is genuine and the said evidence and material shows involvement of applicant in commission of the alleged offence of money laundering," the court noted. It further remarked that Mr. Singh is shown to have been "directly or indirectly, involved in the process or activities connected with proceeds of crime generated through the scheduled offence".

"The evidence and material is also sufficient to furnish this court reasonable grounds for believing that he is guilty of the said offence in terms of provisions contained under Section 45 of the PMLA and, thus, it can be said that the conditions laid down by the said Section for grant of bail to the applicant in the present case are not satisfied," it observed.

'Don't misconstrue IMF's debt outlook'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Government debt could hit 100% of GDP by 2027-28, the IMF had said. REUTERS

The Union Finance Ministry on Friday sought to dispel "certain" factually incorrect "presumptions" being made about India's indebtedness levels from a scenario-based assessment by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that warned government debt could hit 100% of GDP by 2027-28 under adverse circumstances.

"In the light of the IMF's latest Article IV consultations with India, certain presumptions have been made taking into account possible scenarios that does not reflect factual position," the Ministry said.

The Ministry stressed that any interpretation that the report implies that general government debt would exceed 100% is misconstrued.

The Ministry said this was a clarification of factual position and not a "rebuttal" to the IMF, but "rather an effort to arrest misinterpretation/misuse of the comments in the IMF document".

General government debt includes debt of both the Centre and the States, and had dipped "steeply" from about 88% in 2020-21 to about 81% in 2022-23, the Ministry said, sharing a cross-country comparison on debt levels to assert that "India has done relatively well and is still below the debt level of 2002".

The IMF's Executive Board said on Monday it had concluded its annual consultation with India, and its Directors had recommended "ambitious medium-term consolidation efforts given elevated public debt levels and contingent liability risks".

2024 will have more seven-judge Benches hearing crucial matters in Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The New Year will have a slew of seven-judge Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court hearing a series of crucial issues. These include the passage of laws such as Money Bills; sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; the interplay between breach of privilege of legislatures and citizens' fundamental rights; whether Speakers can hear disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule when notices for their removal were pending; the criteria for an educational institution to be tagged as minority-run; and the validity of State laws to impose surcharge on sales tax. Of the six cases, four will be heard by a seven-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in January 2024.

The sales tax and minority educational institution cases would be listed before this Bench on January 9.

The sub-classification and Money Bills issues will be listed on January 17 and 30, respectively. The case on the Speaker's authority to adjudicate disqualification petitions and the one on the interplay between the breach of privilege and fundamental rights will be heard in March.

Of the six cases, four will be heard by a seven-judge Bench. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Money Bill reference concerns amendments, including ones made from 2015 in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through Money Bills, giving the Enforcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids and so on. The court had left the question of whether the amendments could have been passed as Money Bills to the seven-judge Bench. The issue is whether such amendments could be passed as a Money Bill, by circumventing the Rajya Sabha, in violation of Article 110 of the Constitution.

The sub-classification case dates back to 2020 when a five-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra (retired) held that States could sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central List to provide preferential treatment to the "weakest out of the weak". However, the view taken by this Bench was contrary to a 2004 judgment by another five-judge Bench in the *E.V. Chinnaiah* case. This judgment had held that allowing States to unilaterally "make a class within a class of members of the Scheduled Castes" would amount to tinkering with the Presidential list.

The Speaker's authority to hear disqualification petitions against MLAs came up during the Shiv Sena rift case. The Uddhav Thackeray faction had questioned the reasoning of a five-judge Bench in the *Nabam Rebia* verdict of 2016.

The Rebia judgment had ruled against a Speaker with a shadow of doubt over his own office from hearing disqualification petitions.

Congress invites professionals to join party

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Launching a new membership drive for the All India Professional Congress (AIPC), the Congress on Friday invited professionals to be part of the party in the run-up to the 2024 election.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Praveen Chakravarty said it had reorganised AIPC to focus on domains such as business, arts and culture, academia and civil society, sports, gig economy and self-employed professionals such as lawyers, doctors, and architects.

Maoists blow up railway tracks in Jharkhand; trains halted at stations

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

A damaged portion of a railway track between railway stations after it was blown up at Chaibasa in Jharkhand on Friday. PTI

To make its Bharat bandh call successful, the banned CPI(Maoist) blew up a railway track at Chaibasa in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on Thursday night, bringing to a halt operation of trains on the Howrah-Mumbai main railway line.

The police said the Maoists exploded the bomb between the Goilkera and Posaita stations, around 150 km from the State capital Ranchi.

Maoists have also put up posters and banners after blowing up the railway track. As soon as the information about the blast was received, there was chaos in the Chakradharpur Railway Division and the operation of trains was stopped.

The Shalimar-Kurla Express train was stopped at Mahadevsal station. Later, the train was brought to the Goilkera railway station and halted.

Maoists are observing a "Resistance Week" from December 16 to 22. They had earlier put up a banner on the up line near the Deranwa station. A banner was also put up on the engine of the Tata-Itwari passenger train.

The Bharat bandh was announced in a letter issued through the Central Committee spokesperson of the CPI(Maoist), Abhay.

The letter said that in the name of a Naxal-free Jharkhand, the Jharkhand Police, along with Central forces, are committing atrocities in tribal-dominated areas.

From August 2022 till now, many attacks have been carried out on the Maoists. During the continuous attack, their comrades were being captured and killed.

The organisation has also sought help from intellectuals and human rights organisations to make the bandh successful.

According to railway officials, the movement of trains has been stopped on the route and restoration work is under way.

The official said that once the damaged portion would be repaired, the movement of trains would resume. The trains that are halted at different stations are Kalinga Utkal Express (18478), Porbandar Shalimar Express (12905), Jagdalpur Howrah Express (18006), Shalimar LTT Express (18030) and Pune-Howrah Express (12129).

India's rise in Global South marks a pivotal point, says IAF Chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pitching for greater military-to-military cooperation between India and countries in the Global South, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V. R. Chaudhari said on Friday that the Indian Air Force (IAF) might easily act as a catalyst for progress, fostering strategic partnerships and contributing to the collective advancement of the Global South. These engagements were crucial for tackling shared security challenges and ensuring regional stability, he noted.

"We have increased the footprint of training and cooperation with these nations and IAF conducts regular training programmes for these partner nations sharing best practices in the fields of operations and maintenance," he said speaking on 'India and the Global South: opportunities and challenges' as part of the 20th Subroto Mukerjee memorial lecture. "In the past nine years, the IAF alone has trained more than 5,000 trainees from countries of the Global South and this number is only increasing." The Air Chief also released two books – *Indian Air Force: contemporary and future dynamics* authored by Air Marshal D. Choudhary (retd.) and *Aeroengine fundamentals and landscape in India* authored by Air Vice Marshal Suresh Singh (retd.).

V. R. Chaudhari

"The world is at a pivotal juncture and winds of change are blowing strongly in our favour. India's rise in the Global South marks a pivotal point in international affairs," the Air Chief noted. The roles played by the Indian military advisory teams and courses offered through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme paved the way for increased cooperation, adding such programmes focused on human resource development.

Bajrang Punia writes to PM, says he is returning Padma Shri in protest

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Making a statement: Wrestler Bajrang Punia holds his Padma Shri award near the Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Olympic medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia on Friday decided to return his Padma Shri award in protest against the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as the president of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

"I am returning my Padma Shri award to the Prime Minister. This is just my letter. This is my statement," read a post shared by the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist wrestler on X (formerly Twitter).

Mr. Punia also posted a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the denial of justice to the country's female wrestlers. Earlier in the day, Mr. Punia was stopped at Kartavya Path by the Delhi Police after he made an attempt to meet the Prime Minister in Parliament and personally hand over the letter.

The letter read: "Dear PM Ji, hope your health is well. You must be busy in many work but I am writing this to draw your attention to the wrestlers of the country. You must be aware that the women wrestlers of the country started a protest in January this year against Brij Bhushan Singh accusing him of sexual harassment. I too joined their protest. The protest stopped after the government promised strong action."

Expressing his disappointment, the star wrestler added, "But there was no FIR against Brij Bhushan even after three months. We again took to the streets in April so that the police at least file an FIR against him.

"And we, the wrestlers who were awarded could not do anything. I can't live my life as a Padma Shri awardee while our women wrestlers are insulted. Hence I return this award to you," Mr. Punia said.

Mr. Punia was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2019.

Several Opposition MPs requested for suspension: Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Several Opposition members requested for suspension for political mileage

A day after Parliament was adjourned *sine die*, the Union government on Friday maintained that the Opposition MPs had invited action against them by disrupting the proceedings in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. A record 146 Opposition MPs were suspended from both Houses during the Winter Session that concluded on Thursday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told presspersons that the government was not keen on suspending MPs, but several Opposition members requested for suspension for political mileage after action was taken against some of their colleagues.

'Congress's character'

Mr. Joshi said such steps showed the character of the Congress. "We did not want to suspend MPs, we requested them. But after we suspended a few MPs, several of their colleagues came with requests to us seeking suspension. This is the level the Congress stoops to," Mr. Joshi said.

He was addressing the customary press conference after the conclusion of the Winter Session.

Mr. Joshi said he, along with Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and other floor managers of the government, had reached out to the Opposition MPs to ensure the smooth functioning of the House.

Mr. Meghwal, who was present at the briefing, said the decision of the Opposition members to storm into the well of the House was taken much later after the breach of security and that the Opposition was earlier ready to discuss the matter in Parliament.

"They told us that they will indulge in indiscipline and wanted us to suspend them," Mr. Joshi added.

Cong. urges Murmu to speak up for women wrestlers

After Sakshi Malik quits sports in protest against election of Sanjay Singh as WFI chief, Congress slams BJP for 'making India's daughters cry'; her retirement is a 'dark chapter', says party

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday appealed to President Droupadi Murmu and other constitutional functionaries to "speak up" against the exploitation of women wrestlers, and slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for "making India's daughters cry".

The party mounted a scathing attack on the BJP over the election of Sanjay Singh as the new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). Mr. Singh is an aide of BJP MP and former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, against whom women wrestlers had made serious allegations of sexual harassment.

Following Mr. Sanjay Singh's election on Thursday, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik, who was the face of the wrestlers' protest earlier this year, announced her retirement and broke down at a press conference.

Moment of angst: Congress leader Randeep Surjewala addresses a press conference at the AICC headquarters, in New Delhi. PTI

BJP's policy

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said at a press conference that the BJP's policy was "to make your daughter cry" and "torment" them.

"I ask Honourable President of India, who we respect immensely, to shed all inhibitions and speak up for the daughters of India," he said.

"I also appeal to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to speak for daughters of farmers and the way they have been insulted," he added.

Mr. Surjewala said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must answer the "travesty of justice, subjugation of talent, and the bulldozing of quality sports" in the country.

'Dark chapter'

"The announcement of the retirement of the country's first woman wrestler to win an Olympic berth after the election of the BJP MP Brij Bhushan's assistant and 'nominee' Sanjay Singh is a 'dark chapter' in sports history."

The Congress leader said that the women wrestlers had sat at Jantar Mantar for 39 days and knocked on the doors of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and Parliament to demand justice.

"Instead of giving justice, the BJP government crushed them with the shoes of Delhi Police and dragged them on the streets," Mr. Surjewala said.

INBRIEF

P. Chidambaram to head Cong. Manifesto Committee

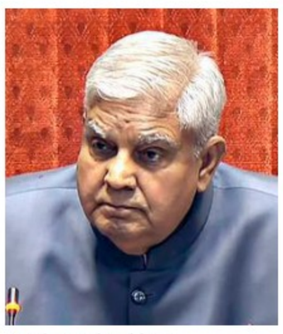
The Congress on Friday announced a 16-member Manifesto Committee for the 2024 Lok Sabha election under the chairmanship of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior leaders Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh, and Shashi Tharoor are among the other members in the panel. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too has been made a member and T. S. Singh Deo has been appointed convener of the Committee.

Bhujbal takes a dig at Maratha quota activist Jarange-Patil

Maharashtra Minister and prominent Other Backward Classes leader Chhagan Bhujbal, taking a swipe at pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Friday, stated that even God seemed to be afraid of the latter. "His (Mr. Jarange-Patil) demands are growing but the Maharashtra government is helpless," he said. Mr. Bhujbal, who had earlier criticised Mr. Jarange-Patil, quipped that he was taking back all that he had said earlier.

Vice-President expresses anguish over Opposition parties' refusal to meet him

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on the concluding day of the Winter Session of Parliament, expressed anguish at the Opposition's refusal to meet him. In another letter to NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, he justified the suspension of members.

In response to the letter, Mr. Kharge, writing on Friday, said suspension of members on such a large scale was detrimental to the core principles of parliamentary democracy.

The Chairman has written to him that rendering the House dysfunctional by making a demand to the Chair that cannot be acceded is unfortunate and against the public interest.

Mr. Dhankar has also said that the Opposition's refusal to meet him during the Winter Session of Parliament is not in sync with parliamentary practices and that interaction with the Presiding Officer should be treated as a "high priority".

The Opposition declined multiple invitations from him on December 14, a day after the security breach in Parliament, when they began their protest, saying that their two demands, a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah and expulsion of BJP MP Pratap Simha, are non-negotiable.

In his letter to Mr. Pawar, Mr. Dhankhar said the suspension of members was "unavoidable" owing to their "extreme degree of misconduct" and he had "risen to the occasion" when the temple of democracy was subject to sacrilege.

CAG audit finds govt. gave widow pension to men in Jharkhand

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Several irregularities have been found in the implementation of government schemes in Jharkhand. These were revealed when the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report of the financial year 2021-22 was tabled on the last day of the Assembly Session on Thursday.

The State government has given widow pension to men. Many students have received more than one scholarship despite the fact that they were entitled for only one scholarship.

The CAG report found lack of social audit and monitoring in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in which fake beneficiaries were given the scholarship.

During the audit, it was found that payment of ₹9.54 lakh was done to 16 men under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and the Rajya Vidhwa Samman Protsahan Yojna.

In the audit, irregularities were found in pre- and post-matric scholarships in which ₹1.17 crore were paid to fake students. Apart from this, ₹9.99 crore of payments were done to fake students under the scholarship given to the minorities. Irregularities have also been found in the scholarship given to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Backward Class (BC).

Nitish meets Tejashwi amid talk of Cabinet expansion, Lok Sabha poll strategies

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Nitish Kumar

After a call from the Congress top brass, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday met Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav amid talk of Cabinet expansion and strategies for the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

This came amid buzz that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tried to reach out to Mr. Kumar on Thursday evening but somehow could not talk to him. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge later spoke to the Chief Minister.

Later in the day, Mr. Kumar met his deputy in the Cabinet at 1 Anne Marg, which is the official residence of the Chief Minister. They met for half-an-hour but did not reveal what transpired between them.

Poll strategies

However, RJD sources told *The Hindu* that the two leaders discussed Cabinet expansion and strategies for the Lok Sabha election.

The State government has been delaying induction of two more Congress legislators into the Cabinet.

Earlier, at the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) meeting on Tuesday, both Nitish Kumar and RJD chief Lalu Prasad had come out of it reportedly in a huff after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee proposed the name of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as the Prime Ministerial face of the alliance with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Mr. Kharge had intervened to assert that the decision on a Prime Ministerial candidate would be taken after the election.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Bids (RFB)

Name of Project:Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: December 23, 2023

The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Bids from national suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods Procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals/ Opening of proposals
1.	Procurement of medical emergency response station equipment to support post-crash care interventions in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts and Emergency Bags for first responders for rescue and Emergency response in 7 districts.. **Ref No**: IN-HPRIDC - -385383-GO-RFB	**December 23, 2023**	**January 11, 2024 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Bids (RFB) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html . **Note: -** Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids Document shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **January 11, 2024 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively

Executive Director -cum-SE (P&D)
HP / 1020/2023-2024 **State Roads Project, HPRIDC, Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-31/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid documents available online for bidding From	Bid documents available online for bidding To	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of completion of work
ACE, CIC, Bhubaneswar	NID-18/ 2023-24	Improvement to Communication Facility from RD.10.43 to 18.00 Km of Nuagaon Distributary	705.76	705800/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	26.12.2023 At 10.00 Hours	09.01.2024 At 17.00 Hours	10.01.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- **secic_dowr@yahoo.com**
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website:**www.tenderodisha.gov.in**

Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle
A-1072: OIPR-32160/11/0037/2324

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010
Ph. No. 0522-6692120, 101 Fax No. 0522-4918506, Website - www.drrmlims.ac.in

Advt. No. 38/Estb-2/Dr. RMLIMS/2023 **Date : 22/12/2023**

Notification for remaining vacant posts of PDC Courses

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for filling up posts of Post-Doctoral Certificate Courses (PDCC) (ONE YEAR duration course) in various Departments of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow :-

Pay Scale, Pay & Level	Name of course	Departments/Specialities
Rs. 15600-39100/- (Level-11) Basic Pay Rs. 67700/- plus other allowances as per rules	PDCC	Anaesthesiology, Medicine, General Medicine & Clinical Hematology,

For detailed information regarding the start of online application, no. of seats, qualification, eligibility criterion etc, kindly visit the Institute website **www.drrmlims.ac.in.** Last date for submitting online application form is 21 days from the start of online application.

Chief Medical Supdt.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE,EC-I/37 of 2023-24 (On-line)

1.	Name of Work	:	Protection to scoured bank and Improvement to Service road on Chitrotpala left embankment from Narasinghapur to Narayanpur. Bid Identification No. ACE,EC-I MND 23 of 2023-24.						
2.	Total No. of Work	:	1 (One) No Work.						
3.	Tender Paper Cost (on line) (Non-refundable) : Rs.10,000.00 (Ten thousand)								
4.	Bid details are as follows :								

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Cost (Rs.in Lakh) (Approx.)	EMD (On-line) (In Rs.)	Class of Contra-ctor	Period of Comple-tion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I MND 23 of 2023-24	244.10	2,44,100.00	'B' & 'A'	6 (Six) Calendar months	29.12.2023 at 10.00 hrs.	12.01.2024 upto 17.30 hrs.	16.01.2024 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
A-1066 OIPR-32370/11/0046/2324

Government of Odisha,
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle,Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-47/2023-24 No:3830 Dated : 16.12.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for **Road** works under DMF in the district of Sambalpur for the year 2023-24.

1. Name of work : **Construction of road under DMF for the year 2023-24.**
2. No of works : **1 (One) No details as per DTCN.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Approximately varies from Rs.133.85 lakhs.**
4. Class of Contractor : **"B" and "A" Class**
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit : **Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer**
6. Mode of submission of tender : **Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in . (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
7. EMD and mode of deposit : **1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN**
8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	Availability of Tender online for bidding To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Road Tender Online - RWCSBP-47/ 2023-24	26.12.2023 From 11.00.A.M.	09.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	05.01.2024 up to 5.00.P.M.	10.01.2024 at 11.00.A.M.	will be intimated later

*Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)** * Subsequent modification / corrigendum / Addendum if required shall appear in website only. * The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST. * Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-1967: OIPR-25091/11/0071/2324

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-26/434/2023-24 **Date:22.12.2023**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Super Grade Electrical Contractors License issued from KCEI & Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Part:A:- Establishment of 2x20 MVA, 110/11kV Sub Station at Mummigatti Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District on Total Turnkey basis. Part-B:- Construction of 110kV LILO line 110kV DC Narrow based towers from existing 110kV Narendra-Belur Line-1 to proposed substation at Mummigatti Industrial Area for a distance of 2.001 Kms in Dharwad Taluk & District.(2nd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **10.01.2024 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1
DIPR/CP/JA/2688/2023-24

INBRIEF

France grounded aircraft with 303 Indians: Indian Embassy

France has grounded an aircraft with over 300 Indian-origin persons, the Indian Embassy in Paris has confirmed. The aircraft was flying from Dubai to Nicaragua in South America. "French authorities informed us of a plane w/ 303 people, mostly Indian origin, from Dubai to Nicaragua detained on a technical halt at a French airport. Embassy team has reached & obtained consular access. We are investigating the situation, also ensuring well-being of passengers," the Embassy announced on social media. *Reuters* reported that the charter aircraft operated by Romanian Legend Airlines had landed for a technical stopover at the Vatry airport, when the police intervened under suspicion of human trafficking.

BJP flays temple promotional video featuring Kamiya Jani

A major controversy has erupted as the BJP criticised the Naveen Patnaik government's promotion of development around the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri alleging that a social media influencer in the promotional video has advocated the consumption of beef. V.K. Pandian, who recently joined the Biju Janata Dal, has uploaded the video on social media featuring Kamiya Jani that was shot on the premises of the temple, said Jatin Mohanty, BJP general secretary. He alleged, "The video has hurt the sentiments of followers of *Sanatana* faith and Hindus as there is a visual proof of Ms. Jani eating beef and she had herself admitted it."

Three arrested in illegal drugs trafficking case in Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an international syndicate involved in trafficking of pharma drugs from India to Australia and arrested three suspects. According to the press release issued by the NCB, a total of 9,800 Zolpidem Tartrate tablets and 18,700 Tramadol tablets were seized by the NCB. The suspects are V. Singh, G. Mishra, and P. Sharma. During the initial investigation, it was found that the involvement of an international drug network in the illicit diversion of pharmaceutical drugs was from India to foreign destinations, primarily to Australia.

Assam DGP apologises for detention of Kaziranga ranger

Assam's Director-General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh on Friday apologised to a Forest Department official for the "undue detention" of a ranger of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on Thursday night. Rajen Singh, Golaghat district's Superintendent of Police, had forest official Tarun Gogoi detained for allegedly failing to provide five tickets for an elephant safari in the one-horned rhino habitat. The tickets were meant for members of the police officer's family, forest officials said. Mr. Gogoi said the tickets could not be provided as they had been sold out. The officer did not take kindly to his request to book for the next day, he said.

Government aims to set up 17,000 creches across India

The Ministry plans to depute two additional creche workers in each anganwadi under the 'Palna' scheme; the Centre has approved 5,222 creches; there are 13.87 lakh anganwadis, mini-anganwadis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Women and Child Development Ministry on Friday said it aimed to establish 17,000 creches in anganwadis across the country. The Ministry added that 5,222 creches had been approved until now, and it planned to depute two additional creche workers in each anganwadi.

These initiatives are being taken under the 'Palna' scheme to address the need for quality daycare facilities or creches for children of working women by providing a safe and secure environment for the nutritional, health and cognitive development of the children, thereby enabling more women among all socio-economic groups to take up gainful employment in the organised and unorganised sector.

The Centre has released a new SOP for anganwadi-cum-creche centres being set up under the 'Palna' Scheme. FILE PHOTO

On Thursday, Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani released a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for anganwadi-cum-creche centres being set up under the 'Palna' scheme. They outline a comprehensive framework for the administration and implementation of the scheme, including administrative hierarchy, roles, and responsibilities of the workers and monitoring checklist.

"Our priority is to reach out to the woman who earns her livelihood by leaving her own house to work in another, a woman who works as an agricultural labourer, a woman who works as a construction worker, under Palna and provide an opportunity to participate in economic activity, so that along with her livelihood she can provide a safe and secure environment for her children," Ms. Irani said.

Indivar Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, said two additional creche workers and helpers would be deputed along with the existing anganwadi workers and helpers.

According to government data, participation of women in the workforce has increased to 37% in 2022. As of March 31, 2021, 13.87 lakh anganwadi and mini-anganwadi centres are operational across the country.

Malayalam film '*2018*' not in final 15, out of Oscar race

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Malayalam film *2018: Everyone is a Hero*, India's official entry in the international feature film category at the 2024 Academy Awards, is out of the Oscar race. The Jude Anthany Joseph-directed film failed to make it to the shortlist of 15 films for the category announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Friday.

Jonathan Glazer's historical drama *The Zone of Interest* (U.K.), Denmark's *The Promised Land*, starring Mads Mikkelsen, and *Perfect Days* from Japan are being billed as the frontrunners of the category.

The shortlist includes "*Amerikatsi*" (Armenia), "*The Monk and the Gun*" (Bhutan), "*Fallen Leaves*" (Finland), "*The Taste of Things*" (France), "*The Teachers' Lounge*" (Germany), "*Godland*" (Iceland), "*Io Capitano*" (Italy), "*Totem*" (Mexico), "*The Mother of All Lies*" (Morocco), "*Society of the Snow*" (Spain), "*Four Daughters*" (Tunisia) and "*20 Days in Mariupol*" (Ukraine).

Films from 88 countries were eligible in the category. The shortlisted movies will advance to the next round of voting.

"*2018*", starring Tovino Thomas, was announced as India's official entry for the 96th Oscars in September. It narrates the story of the Kerala floods in 2018.

According to the makers, the film has earned over ₹200 crore at the box office to become the highest-grossing film in Malayalam cinema. In a post on Instagram, Mr. Joseph said the opportunity to represent India at a global platform like the Oscars was nothing short of a dream.

Arvind Kejriwal

ED issues third summons to Kejriwal in excise case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a third summons to Delhi Chief Minister rvind Kejriwal to appear before it for questioning on January 3 in the Delhi excise policy case, sources said on Friday. Mr. Kejriwal did not appear before the agency on two earlier summons sent for questioning on November 2 and December 21.

Responding to the development, the AAP said that since Mr. Kejriwal had left for a *Vipassana* course, the party could not confirm if the third summons had been received or not. "This is a completely fake case. The BJP has not been able to produce an evidence in the courts. Since Arvind Kejriwal has left for *Vipassana*, we cannot confirm if another summons has been received or not," the party said in a statement.

Gujarat will permit liquor consumption in GIFT to attract financial institutions

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government has decided to allow alcohol consumption in GIFT City to attract global financial institutions.

The State government announced on Friday that alcohol would be allowed at hotels, restaurants and clubs offering "wine and dine" in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near the State capital, Gandhinagar.

Officials, employees and owners working from GIFT City will be exempt from the prohibition law, which makes alcohol consumption illegal across the State.

The Gujarat government has permitted nearly 60 hotels and clubs to serve liquor in the GIFT City. REUTERS

Liquor permit

A liquor access permit will be provided to all employees, owners and officials working in GIFT City.

The new rules for GIFT City also allow visitors to consume liquor in hotels, restaurants, clubs that have temporary permits in the presence of permanent employees of a company.

Accordingly, hotels, restaurants and clubs located in GIFT City will be able to obtain wine and dine facility licence there. Employees of GIFT City and visitors can consume liquor in them.

However, these outlets cannot sell liquor bottles, the State government said in a release.

Gujarat has been a dry State since it was carved from Mumbai State and created in 1960.

Prohibition relaxed

However, in the last decade, the State has taken a series of steps to relax prohibition to attract foreign investments.

First, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up in the State were allowed exemption from the State's law pertaining to liquor consumption.

Second, as part of its tourism policy, the Gujarat government has allowed licensed liquor stores in some hotels where only tourists can purchase alcohol from the licensed shops.

According to sources, there are around 60 hotels and clubs that have been given permission for liquor shops to serve tourists.

These licensed liquor stores can also cater to nearly 48,000 local permit holders, who have been issued permits by the State government based on their health requirements.

A health permit for alcohol consumption can be issued based on the recommendation of the State Health Department.

HC stays trial court order in Parliament security breach case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday stayed a trial court's order directing the police to provide a copy of the first information report (FIR) to an accused in the Parliament security breach case.

The High Court passed the order on the police's petition challenging the trial court's order on Thursday, directing them to furnish a copy of the FIR to counsel for the accused, Neelam Devi, as per law. "The execution of the order dated December 21 stands stayed till the next date of hearing. Notice issued to the accused for the next date of hearing," the High Court said. It issued notice to Ms. Devi on the police's petition and posted the matter for hearing on January 4.

The police's counsel argued that in sensitive matters, the accused has to approach the Commissioner, who will form a committee to decide the application for providing a copy of the FIR and, if it is denied, they can move the court for relief.

Counsel said the trial court erred in directing the police to provide the FIR copy to the accused.

Neelam Devi is being produced at the Patiala Court in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

On Thursday, the trial court extended till January 5 the custody of four accused – Manoranjan D., Sagar Sharma, Amol Dhanraj Shinde and Neelam Devi – arrested in the Parliament security breach case.

On December 21, the trial court had on an application by Ms. Devi directed the Investigating Officer (IO) to hand over a copy of the FIR to her counsel.

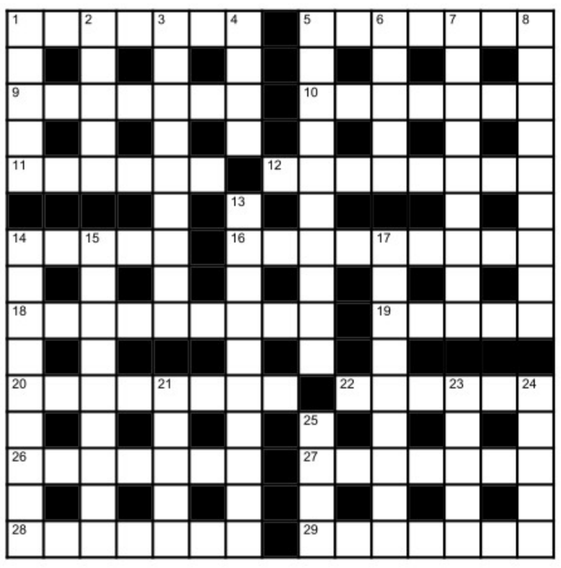
Besides the four accused, the police had arrested Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat in the case. All the six accused are being interrogated in police custody.

TH CROSSWORD + 14053

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 State of German I pursued (7)
5 Boxes taking out intellectuals (7)
9 I strive hard to consider again (7)
10 Behaviour of French firm's unusual (7)
11 Power secured in capital's old city (6)
12 Country girl left university earlier (8)
14 Relieves her as she is often stressed (5)
16 Oil expert acting on a red alert? (3,6)
18 Try adjusting rupee cost (9)
19 Do mean to yell at the beginning (5)
20 Last in spite of everything (5,3)
22 Steady horses (6)
26 Managed to wear one reflecting band in city (7)
27 Caught a little leaf bitten by greener insect, say (7)
28 Abhors extremely disagreeable exams (7)
29 Two seconds to stop haemorrhage? That's lucky! (7)

Down

1 Respected American democrat left stuck in messy situation (5)
2 Rising volcanic rock by ocean floor concerns ships (5)
3 Spooner's present spread quickly (4-5)
4 Spoil Indian bread (4)
5 Oh! muted and minimized (3-7)
6 Feature of Church's solid walls (5)
7 Lawless guerrilla struggles ultimately switching sides (9)
8 By the same token slimy criminal shelters rotten liar (9)
13 Accidents by negligent couples (10)
14 Justified when former spouse got even, say (9)
15 Successful candidates in a bear's roster (9)
17 Immigrant sacrificing right to speak (9)
21 Cheats swindlers leaving clubs (5)
23 Locks and runs away (5)
24 Pierre Dupont had made a mistake (5)
25 Scoundrel in small taxi (4)

SUDOKU

		1					6	
	6				4	3	9	
	9		2	5				
8	3	4		6				
	2		7		9		4	
				8		6	3	1
				7	8		2	
	8	9	1				5	
	4					1		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6016 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	G	O	T	H	E	D	I	S	T	A	N	C	E	
		U		Y		E		E		N		A		
R	A	T	E	D		K	I	S	S	I	N	G	E	R
U		S		R		K		S		S		O		I
M	E	T	R	O	P	O	L	I	S		B	U	R	G
B		A		P				O		O		L		H
L	O	Y	A	L	E	R		N	A	F	F	E	S	T
E				A		A		A		F				A
S	E	M	I	N	A	R		L	O	T	U	S	E	S
T		A		E		E				H		H		R
R	E	E	K		D	E	S	I	D	E	R	A	T	A
I		S		T		A		R		C		M		I
P	O	T	P	O	U	R	R	I		U	N	P	I	N
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	G	O	W	I	T	H	T	H	E	F	L	O	W	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	4	1	5	3	9	2	6
1	3	6	2	9	7	4	5	8
2	9	5	4	6	8	7	1	3
7	8	1	9	4	5	3	6	2
6	4	2	8	3	1	5	7	9
9	5	3	6	7	2	1	8	4
4	1	7	3	2	6	8	9	5
5	2	9	7	8	4	6	3	1
3	6	8	5	1	9	2	4	7

FAITH

Vaikunta Ekadasi vratam

There is no greater prayer than Gayatri Mantra and no greater ritual than Ekadasi vratam. We observe two Ekadasis in a month. Vaikunta Ekadasi, the Ekadasi vratam falling in the sukla paksham in the Tamil month of Margazhi is significant, said Dhamal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

For devas, a full earth year is equivalent to one day. Margazhi, the month preceding the beginning of northern journey of the sun, is the hour before the day break for the devas. It is the moment when Mahavishnu opens His eyes. The efficacy of Ekadasi in Margazhi can be gleaned from the fact that Krishna tells Arjuna, '*Masanam Margaseershoaham*' in the Bhagavad Gita. Significantly, Vaikunta Ekadasi is associated with attaining moksha. The Padma Purana narrates the history of Vaikunta Ekadasi through the episode of asura Muran who secures Vishnu's blessings but abuses his power. Vishnu Himself engages him in a combat. When Vishnu rests briefly in a cave, the asura tries to ambush Him at which point, a female form springs from Vishnu's chest and kills Muran on the 11th day of Margazhi sukla paksham. Vishnu names her as Ekadasi. She seeks Moksha for Muran and anyone who prays on this day. On Vaikunta Ekadasi, devotees observe fast, pray and stay awake through the night, singing *nama sankirtan*.

INBRIEF

Govt. releases ₹73,000-cr. in tax dues to States for liquidity

In a bid to improve States' liquidity position ahead of the 'forthcoming festivities and the New Year,' the Centre on Friday said it had released an additional tranche of tax devolution dues of nearly ₹73,000 crore to State governments. The latest transfer of dues amounting to ₹72,961.21 crore is in "addition to the tax devolution installment due to States on 10 January, 2024 and the installment of ₹72,961.21 crore already released on 11 December 2023", the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Masur dal imports to remain duty-free till March 2025

With pulses inflation accelerating amid poor output prospects for Kharif crop and a significant lag in Rabi crop sowing, the government on Friday extended the import duty exemption on Masur dal by a year, extending its validity till March 31, 2025, from the current deadline of March 2024. In November, retail prices of pulses surged 20.23% compared with 18.8% in October, while wholesale prices rose at an even faster 21.6%. As of December 15, Rabi crop sowing for pulses was 8.2% lower than a year earlier.

Logistics firm Oxyzen Express raises $3 mn in seed capital

Express Logistics and supply-chain solutions start-up Oxyzen Express on Friday said it had closed the second round of seed capital fund raise of $3 million to invest into next-generation logistics technology. Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund and SNAM group of companies were the lead investors. Co-founded by a team of eight industry veterans, Oxyzen started operations in early 2022. It reported a revenue of $6 million in FY23. Oxyzen has many marque customers across multiple industry sectors.

'Economic scenario turning benign'

Challenge for monetary policy is to facilitate this benign outcome, where inflation trends down and growth remains robust, says MPC's Varma; Overall inflation outlook to be clouded by volatile food prices, intermittent weather shocks, predicts Das

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Containing inflation and reviving growth remained the key concerns among Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members as evident from the minutes of the last meeting released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

"Current indications are that, after many difficult quarters, the economic environment is turning more benign in terms of both inflation and growth," observed MPC member Jayant Varma.

"The challenge for the monetary policy is to facilitate this benign outcome where inflation trends down and growth remains robust," Mr. Varma said.

"This requires two things. First, a restrictive monetary policy must be maintained long enough to glide inflation to its target of 4%. Second, as inflation drops well below the upper tolerance band, it is necessary to prevent the real interest rate from becoming excessive," he said.

Stating that at present, the projected inflation two to four quarters ahead averaged below 4.75%, he said the prevailing money market interest rates of 6.75%, (close to the MSF rate) therefore, represented a real interest rate of more than 2%. Emphasising that inflation remained highly vulnerable to food price spikes, as the spurt in momentum in daily data on key food items for the month of November and early December indicated, MPC member and Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra held that this repetitive incidence was causing the accumulation of price pressures in the system and could impart persistence, reflected in a left-tailed skew in the distribution of inflation.

Keeping watch

Monetary Policy Committee members focus on containing inflation and reviving growth

- Maintain a restrictive monetary policy long enough to glide inflation to its target of 4%, suggests Varma
- As inflation drops well below upper tolerance band, it is necessary to prevent real interest rate from becoming excessive

'Households wary'

"Households are already wary: although they expect inflation to remain unchanged three months ahead, they are more unsure about this prognosis than they were two months ago. Over the year ahead, however, they are more sure than in the past that inflation will likely rise," he remarked.

"Consumers too reveal more pessimism about inflation a year ahead than when they were surveyed in September. Consequently, monetary policy has to remain on high alert with a restrictive stance," Dr. Patra said.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, also a member of the MPC, said that moving forward, while food inflation had receded from the highs seen in July, it remained elevated. "The overall inflation outlook is expected to be clouded by volatile and uncertain food prices and intermittent weather shocks," he stated.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	71,107	0.34
US Dollar	83.16	0.13
Gold	63,350	0.48
Brent oil	79.44	0.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2808.35	8.60
Adani Ports	1027.50	8.55
Apollo Hosp	5541.40	65.55
Asian Paints	3341.30	38.35
Axis Bank	1088.30	-7.10
Bajaj Auto	6372.10	125.75
Bajaj Finserv	1672.05	5.20
Bajaj Finance	7295.30	-71.85
Bharti Airtel	989.55	11.65
BPCL	446.65	-2.90
Britannia Ind	5161.10	101.50
Cipla	1235.60	13.75
Coal India	363.25	7.75
Divis Lab	3694.95	62.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5627.70	73.20
Eicher Motors	4006.05	48.10
Grasim Ind	2046.20	-39.40
HCL Tech	1462.70	40.65
HDFC Bank	1670.85	-15.85
HDFC Life	639.85	-4.35
Hero MotoCorp	3935.70	85.55
Hindalco	570.45	14.20
Hind Unilever	2575.60	22.40
ICICI Bank	994.30	-10.10
IndusInd Bank	1562.35	-7.65
Infosys	1562.90	26.90
ITC	455.20	3.75
JSW Steel	855.30	13.40
Kotak Bank	1860.50	7.80
L&T	3477.95	53.80
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6229.10	118.05
M&M	1634.25	0.40
Maruti Suzuki	10217.15	204.30
NestleIndia	25368.45	252.60
NTPC	302.80	0.85
ONGC	203.95	1.30
PowerGrid Corp	231.75	-0.60
Reliance Ind	2565.05	2.50
SBI Life	1394.30	-9.45
State Bank	636.75	-7.00
Sun Pharma	1243.65	10.15
TataConsumerProduct	992.80	13.50
Tata Motors	724.70	15.85
Tata Steel	133.55	2.55
TCS	3824.00	36.50
Tech Mahindra	1275.15	25.05
Titan	3627.35	47.35
UltraTech Cement	9969.00	14.55
UPL	581.65	4.25
Wipro	462.65	28.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.94	83.26
Euro	91.31	91.67
British Pound	105.35	105.76
Japanese Yen (100)	58.37	58.59
Chinese Yuan	11.64	11.69
Swiss Franc	97.02	97.40
Singapore Dollar	62.63	62.89
Canadian Dollar	62.46	62.71
Malaysian Ringitt	17.90	17.98
Australian Dollar	56.36	56.59

Source:Indian Bank

China bans export of rare earth technologies

Reuters
BEIJING

China, the world's top processor of rare earths, on Thursday banned the export of technology to extract and separate the strategic metals, as it overhauled a list of technologies deemed key to national security.

The commerce ministry sought public opinion last December on the potential move to add the technology to its "Catalogue of Technologies Prohibited and Restricted from Export". It also banned the export of production technology for rare earth metals and alloy materials as well as technology to prepare some rare earth magnets. The move comes as Europe and the U.S. scramble to wean themselves off rare earths from China, which accounts for 90% of global refined output.

Rare earths are a group of 17 metals used to make magnets for use in EVs and other electronics.

Centre exploring one-stop health sector regulator

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Private doctor bodies say private and govt. insurance must come under proposed regulator's purview

The Central government is exploring setting up a health sector regulator that will bring private and government health insurance schemes under its purview to facilitate affordable insurance coverage for all, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The Ministries of Finance (MoF) and Health are in "initial discussions" over the need for a sector watchdog.

The Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI), in a letter to the MoF, welcomed this saying "making healthcare available, accessible, and affordable has been resolved by the present government. Penetration of private insurance is increasing at a fast rate and along with government-run insurance, India should soon be covering 70% of the population".

Doctors' bodies have urged that private and government insurance be brought under a single regulator. Meaning, regulating government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Central Government Health Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, etc.

Dr. Girdhar Gyani, DG, AHPI said, "This can only happen, if government insurance schemes are restructured in a manner that more and more tertiary care hospitals come forward and get empanelled in these schemes to enable beneficiaries to get healthcare services".

'About 240 mn PCs can end up in landfill on MS move'

Reuters

Microsoft Corp's plan to end support for Windows 10 operating system could result in about 240 million personal computers (PCs) being disposed, potentially adding to landfill waste, Canalys Research said.

The electronic waste from the PCs could weigh about 480 million kg, equivalent to 3.2 lakh cars.

While many PCs could remain functional for years post the end of OS support, Canalys warned demand for devices without security updates could be low.

Microsoft announced a plan to provide security updates for Windows 10 devices until October 2028 for an undisclosed price.

Switch's e-buses aiding in reducing emissions: MD Babu

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Switch Mobility Ltd., the electric-vehicle arm of Ashok Leyland, has accomplished more than 100-million 'green' km globally through its electric buses and prevented about 70,000 tonne of carbon emissions, according to a top company official.

"We have deployed over 800 e-buses in India and United Kingdom/Europe that have accomplished 50 million green km each," CEO Mahesh Babu said during an interaction.

While London and Europe took 10 years to achieve the milestone, it took only five years for India to cross the 50-million green-km mark. According to him, a majority of the e-buses are in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad and some in London with an operational up-time exceeding 98%.

Diverse range

"From electrifying roads and dominating public and urban transportation with a diverse product range of EiV22 and EiV12 buses, to powering the mid-mile and last-mile segment with our IeV series, Switch Mobility's innovations are driven by a thriving internal ecosystem.

"Our light commercial vehicles (IeV3 and IeV4 series) will also add to the recent milestone thus result in further reduction of carbon emissions from the fourth quarter of the current fiscal," he added.

Switch already has an order book for 1,000 units for the new e-LCVs that were unveiled during the 75th anniversary of Ashok Leyland. They will be made at the Hosur plant.

Stating that Switch aimed at becoming a commercial EV provider and employer of choice in the industry, he said it had recently earned the prestigious 'Great place to work' certification.

'Funding winter' helped start-ups cut cash burn and mature: Deloitte, others

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Funding Winter, meaning the long stretch of low capital infows into start-ups through 2022-23, have helped them manage their businesses better without burning excessive cash, and wisen up as managers, industry observers said.

However, they claimed that India is viewed as one of the places where funds deployment is considered safe, and so, they expect capital flows to return in the first and second quarter of CY24.

Peeyush Vaish, Partner & Telecom Sector Lead at Deloitte India told *The Hindu* that the start-up sector let the cash burn happen as long as the valuations spiked.

"In that era probably that was the right thing to just burn cash and survive on funding. Some start-ups actually boomed then. But today, they have certainly passed that era as they have matured, learnt how to run with less cash and achieve better profitability," Mr. Vaish said.

Today, startups were showing maturity with high CAGR, better profitability, lesser losses, lesser cash burn and focus on hyper niches instead of going all over and looking at everything at the same time," Mr. Vaish added.

Milan Sharma, Founder and MD, 35North Ventures, a VC Firm in Mumbai opined that the funding winter was a mid-course correction for businesses with spiked valuations and low profitability. "Yet, those who were quick to pivot and focus on low cash burn models have managed to stay immune," he added.

According to Rajeev Ranka, Partner at Incubate Fund Asia, recent market shifts led investors to prioritise startups with robust economics, a well-defined problem-solution fit, and resilient business models.

In the first nine months of 2023, startups in the country could attract only 30-35% of the previous year's $40 billion.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of **(a)** 11 KV Metal Parts (C&T) **(b)** 11 KV 200A (TT) AB Switches with Porcelain Type Solid Core Insulators **(c)** 11 KV Three Phase HG Fuse Sets with Porcelain Type Solid Core Insulators **(d)** 33KV 1-Ph PTs 0.2 class 10 VA burden **(e)** 5 MVA Power Transformers **(f)** 220V 80AH Batteries **(g)** 11 KV 200A (TT) Gang Operated AB Switches with Post Type Polymer Insulators on e-tender platform. For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com**, **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** Phone: 040-23431360, 1033,1035,1026
DIPR No.8897-PP/CL/ADVT/I/2023-24 Dt. 22.12.2023 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Panchayat & Revenue Department, TTD, Tirumala. | TTD-81022(31)/21/2023/PANCHAYAT TML-TTD, Dt:14-12-2023
NOTIFICATION
ALLOTMENT OF OLD REST HOUSES / COTTAGES FOR RENOVATION / RECONSTRUCTION AT TIRUMALA UNDER COTTAGE DONATION SCHEME
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh is inviting applications from aspirant donors for renovation / re-construction of new Rest Houses in place of 04 (four) existing Old Rest Houses / Cottages at Tirumala which are outlived their normal life. All relevant details and documents can be downloaded from www.tirumala.org. The filled in applications should be dropped in the sealed box kept in the office of the Officer on Special Duty (Panchayat & Revenue), TTD, Tirumala during working hours on working days w.e.f. 23-12-2023 (date of publication of notification) till **03.00 p.m. 24-01-2024** Sealed **Box will be opened at 04.00 p.m.on 24-01-2024 at the same premises.**
Roc.No.PR4/13961/Adv.No.309/PRO/2023, Dated:22-12-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A.P. RAJIV SWAGRUHA CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
DOOR No.5-21, HOSTEL ROAD, PRASADAMPADU, VIJAYAWADA-521108.
Online Auction Notification No.01/APRSCL/2022, Dated: 06-12-2023
Corrigendum
Payment of EMD @ **5.00 Crores** per each Plot may be read as @ **2.00 Crores** per each Plot for Bid Registration from **07.12.2023** to **27.12.2023** till **05.00 PM** in regard to auction of open plots at Yendada in Visakhapatnam. Details can be download from 1. **www.mstcindia.co.in** 2. **www.mstcecommerce.com**
DIPR 2559PP/CL, Dt: 22-12-2023 Sd/- Managing Director, APRSCL, Vijayawada

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid(31/2023-24)
Bids forcollection of user feeon"Bhawi-Pipar-Khinwsar Roadsection of SH-86CLength Km.83.225"are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 26.12.2023. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **htpp://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittanceis ₹ **3.09 Cr.**
UBN: PWD2324SLOB17495
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11863 Member (Works, Contracts & Operations)

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Identification No. U74140DL1955GOI002481
PM Vishwakarma Scheme (Request for Proposal)
Corrigendum
Reference to advertisement dt. 19.12.2023, inviting eligible Manufacturers / Suppliers for supplying Toolkits (all 18 trades) under PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Through this corrigendum, change in Venue for Pre-bid meeting scheduled on 27.12.2023 at 11:00 A.M. is notified as under: **Tagore Chamber, Scope Convention Centre, Core-8, Ground Floor, Scope Complex, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. (Entry Gate No. 18)**
Last date for Bid submission is **08.01.2024 till 11:00 A.M.** For participation through Video Conferencing, intending bidders may send their request through email to procurement@nsic.co.in by 26.12.2023 (05.30 P.M.). Any further announcement/Corrigendum regarding PM Vishwakarma Scheme-Pre bid meeting will be made only on the NSIC website WWW.NSIC.CO.IN

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 168-172/2023-24/PHC/KNR Jal Jeevan Mission - Kannur District - WSS to Cherupuzha, Kolachery, Chirakkal, Azhikode, Peravoor and adjoining panchayaths-Construction of Tank, Pumping main, Transmission main, Distribution, Providing FHTCs and road restoration work, **EMD** : Rs. 200000 - 500000, **Tender Fee** : Rs. 13010-19518, **Last Date for Submitting Tender** : 12-01-2024, 03:00 pm, **Phone** : 0497 2705902.
Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1864-2023-24 PH Circle, Kannur

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam Kollam 691583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2023_KMML_634686_1	Excavation of iron oxide from third pond in as is where is condition and shifting to old ponds in KMML

Chavara 22.12.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

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MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
An ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 Company, Walayar Post, Palakkad - 678624 - Kerala
Email : materials@malabarcements.com/bulkmcl@malabarcements.com
TENDER NOTICE
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** for Online Submission of Bids for Tender:
❖ Design and Engineering, Manufacturing and supply, Erection and Commissioning of 80 meter (approximate) and 800 MM width belt conveyor system of capacity 300 TPH with ancillary equipments including civil foundation and supporting structures. ❖ Exploratory Core Drilling Work at Pandarathu Limestone Mines of Malabar Cements Ltd, Kerala. ❖Supply of Pinion Bearing for Cement Mill at CGU, Cherthala.
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Public Instruction)
KARNATAKA TEXT BOOK SOCIETY ®
6th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003,
Phone : 080-26422238 e-mail: **mdktbs.tender@gmail.com**
Website: **https://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in**
No:A7/E16158/KTBS/ADM/TBTR/2/2023-24 Date: 21.12.2023
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
Short-term Tenders are invited under Two Bid System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply about **1012.62 lakhs** of textbooks for Class 1 to 10th Students, **138.20** workbooks for class 4 to 9th standard and **48.98 lakhs** Students Diaries to 1 to 12th Class for Karnataka state for the year 2024-25.
Eligible printers may offer their bidding up to **5.30 P.M. on 06.01.2024**. Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website. E-procurement portal address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Help line: +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777**, Department Website: **http://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in**
Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Text Book Society, Bengaluru.

Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust
(Department of Health & Family Welfare)
Arogya Soudha, 7th Floor, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore - 560 023
Phone: 080-22536200, E-mail: directorsast@gmail.com
No.:HFW/SAST/IT/01/2023-24 Date: 22-12-2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sub: Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust invites Tender for procurement of Agency for providing manpower services.
Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka registered under the Indian Trust Act of 1882 is implementing various Government Health Schemes. For the successful implementation of its Schemes, the Trust seeks to hire the services of Manpower Agency to provide human resources. Bids have to be submitted on the e-Procurement Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** from **22.12.2023.** The last date for submission of bids in the e-Procurement portal is on **12.01.2024 up to 5.00 PM.**
Sd/- Executive Director
DIPR/CP/BCPL/2682/2023-24 Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Bangalore

PARIS

Exiled writer Akunin says Russia slipping into 'totalitarianism'

REUTERS

Renowned Russian writer Boris Akunin, who was declared a "terrorist" by Moscow, says he fears the moves signal a new milestone in the country's history. "Vladimir Putin's regime has clearly decided to take a new step from an autocratic state to a totalitarian state," Mr. Akunin, who lives in exile, said. AFP

WASHINGTON

'Audio reveals Trump pushed against certifying Michigan vote'

REUTERS

Donald Trump pushed local officials not to certify 2020 election results in Michigan, according to audio recordings cited in a report in *The Detroit News* on Thursday. The accusations come as Mr. Trump runs again for President and is poised to nab the Republican nomination in 2024. AFP

ANKARA

Turkiye detains 304 people with suspected links to IS group

AP

Turkish security forces have rounded up 304 people suspected of links to the Islamic State extremist group in simultaneous raids across Turkiye, the Interior Minister said on Friday. The operation, codenamed "Heroes-34," was conducted jointly by the police intelligence and counter-terrorism squads. AP

YEREVAN

Karabakh dissolution not valid, says Armenian separatist leader

AFP

The leader of Armenian separatists on Friday said his previous decree ordering the dissolution of separatist institutions was not valid. The statement appeared to undo a historic move by the separatists to dissolve the disputed territory that was at the centre of two costly wars between Armenia and Azerbaijan. AFP

U.S. plans to sanction banks that help Russia's war

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States said on Friday it will sanction foreign banks that support Russia's war in Ukraine, in a new bid to exert economic pressure on Moscow as it diversifies from the West to China.

Under an order to be signed on Friday by President Joe Biden, the U.S. would be authorised to issue so-called secondary sanctions against financial institutions that support Russia's defence industry. The U.S., the world's largest economy, was sending a message to financial institutions that they have "a very stark choice," an official said. The U.S. official voiced hope that European and U.S. banks, while not directly invested in Russia, would pressure partners operating in the country.

Gaza toll surpasses 20,000 as Israel expands offensive

The deaths, amounting to nearly 1% of the territory's pre-war population, are just one measure of the devastation wrought by the conflict; over half a million in Gaza are starving, says a UN report

Associated Press
RAFAH

More than 20,000 Palestinians have died in Gaza during Israel's war against Hamas, health officials said on Friday, the latest indication of the staggering cost of the conflict as Israel expands its ground offensive and orders tens of thousands more people to leave their homes.

The deaths, amounting to nearly 1% of the territory's pre-war population, are just one measure of the devastation wrought by the conflict that over 11 weeks has displaced nearly 85% of Gaza's people and levelled wide swaths of the tiny coastal enclave.

More than half a million people in Gaza – a quarter of the population – are starving, according to a report on Thursday from the United Nations and other agencies describing the crisis caused by Israel's bombardment and siege of the territory in response to Hamas's Oct. 7 attack.

Wheels of death: Israeli tanks rolling past damaged buildings during a military operation in the north of the Gaza Strip. AFP

Despite the emergency, a U.N. Security Council vote on aid deliveries and terms for a ceasefire was delayed again late on Thursday, after days of high-level negotiations.

The U.S., which has veto power, has pushed back against calls for an immediate ceasefire and giving the U.N. sole responsibility for inspecting aid deliveries. Israel, citing security grounds, insists it needs to be able to screen goods entering Gaza.

'Consult before vote'

The U.S. said it would back a revised resolution that calls for "creating the conditions" for a ceasefire, rather than an immediate end to fighting. Other countries support a stronger text and said diplomats would need to consult their governments before a vote, which is expected on Friday.

Israel, shielded by the United States, has resisted international pressure to scale back its offensive and has said it would press on until Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years, has been destroyed.

UN approves watered-down resolution on aid to Gaza

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

After many delays, the UN Security Council adopted a watered-down resolution on Friday calling for immediately speeding up aid deliveries to desperate civilians in Gaza but without the original call for an "urgent suspension of hostilities" between Israel and Hamas.

The vote in the 15-member council was 13-0 with the United States and Russia abstaining. It followed a U.S. veto of a Russian amendment that would have restored the call for a suspension of hostilities. That vote was 10 members in favour, the U.S. against and four abstentions.

The revised text was negotiated during a week and a half of high-level diplomacy by the United States, the United Arab Emirates on behalf of Arab nations and others.

Members of the UNSC during the vote at UN headquarters, in New York on Friday. REUTERS

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said late on Thursday the United States, Israel's closest ally, backed it. The U.S. abstention avoided a second U.S. veto of a Gaza resolution following Hamas's surprise Oct. 7 attacks inside Israel.

Stripped of teeth

Rather than watered down, Ms. Thomas-Greenfield described the resolution as "strong" and said it "is fully supported by the Arab group that provides them what they feel is needed to get humanitarian assistance on the ground". But it was stripped of its key provision with teeth – a call for "the urgent suspension of hostilities to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and for urgent steps towards a sustainable cessation of hostilities."

Instead, it calls "for urgent steps to immediately allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and also for creating the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities." The steps are not defined, but diplomats said if adopted this would mark the council's first reference to stopping fighting.

Security Council resolutions are legally binding, but in practice many parties choose to ignore the council's requests for action. General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, though they are a significant barometer of world opinion.

Russia says it downed 10 Ukraine drones

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia said on Friday it had downed 10 Ukrainian drones over the capital Moscow and several border regions, as Kyiv vowed to increase drone production over the coming months. Drone attacks on Russian territory were rare at the start of the Ukrainian conflict but they have become increasingly frequent in the past year, including in Moscow.

"Air defence forces in the urban district of Podolsk repelled an attack from a drone flying towards Moscow," the capital's mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

No damage

No damage or casualties were reported where debris fell and emergency services were at work at the site, Mr. Sobyanin added.

Russian air defence forces often report thwarting attacks, but rarely specify whether drones are launched from Ukraine, or from Russian territory.

Pakistan's top court orders ex-premier Imran Khan's release on bail in a corruption case

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered in a surprise ruling on Friday the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of his party deputies on bail in a case involving alleged corruption.

Mr. Khan – currently serving a three-year sentence in jail in a graft case – won't be presently freed as he still faces two other corruption cases.

Friday's ruling, which Mr. Khan's defence team viewed as a legal victory and a political boost, was issued over charges of the former premier revealing state secrets when he waved an allegedly confidential document, dubbed Cipher, last year at a rally following his ouster from power. The document has not been made public.

The ruling was issued over charges of the former premier revealing state secrets

"The court's order is proof enough that the charges against Mr. Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were fabricated," said Mr. Khan's lawyer Salman Safdar. Mr. Qureshi is a senior vice president at Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

No evidence

Pakistan's government said the Cipher document was diplomatic correspondence between the Pakistani Ambassador to Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad. Mr. Khan confirmed the correspondence and insisted his ouster was a conspiracy by the United States, his successor Shehbaz Sharif, and the Pakistani military – accusations that they have all denied.

The judges of the Supreme Court concluded in their ruling that there wasn't enough evidence that Mr. Khan revealed official secrets while waving the document.

Japan eases arms norms, allows exports to the U.S.

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

Japan loosened arms export controls on Friday, for the first time in nearly a decade, a move that would enable the U.S. ally to sell domestically made Patriot missile defence systems to Washington.

Japan strictly controls the export of arms under its pacifist constitution, which limits its military capacity to ostensibly defensive measures.

Sales of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC3) system to the United States would be Japan's first export of lethal arms since the end of World War II, local media have reported.

With the new rule, Japan "will be able to export arms which were domestically produced under licence of a foreign company to the licensing country", a national security official in the Prime Minister's cabinet said. Japan produces the PAC3 missile system, paying a licence fee to U.S. defence firm Lockheed Martin which developed the system.

Sport

West Indies hold its nerve, wins T20I series

ENGLAND IN WI

Associated Press
TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

West Indies held its nerve to beat World champion England and win the T20I series 3-2 here on Thursday.

England, defending a modest 132, bowled well at the death as West Indies needed nine off the final over.

Jason Holder scored three off the first delivery from Chris Woakes with Rehan Ahmed saving a run on the boundary behind square.

Shai Hope then smashededed his first six over deep point to finish the match. He was unbeaten on 43.

West Indies made 133 for six and won by four wickets with four balls to spare. The home side had also won the ODI series 2-1.

Hope. GETTY IMAGES

The scores:

England 132 in 19.3 overs (Phil Salt 38, Gudakesh Motie 3/24) lost to West Indies 133/6 in 19.2 over (Shai Hope 43 n.o., Sherfane Rutherford 30).

Toss: WI.

PoM: Motie; **PoS:** Salt.

Juramento should deliver in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's ward Juramento, who ran second in his last start, should make amends in the Chaitanya Chakram Cup, the main event of Saturday's (Dec. 23) races.

1 STEP ASIDE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.15 p.m.: 1. Anemoi (4) N.B. Kuldeep 56, 2. Dapper Look (3) R.S. Jodha 56, 3. In Proposito (2) Abhay Singh 56, 4. Rolls Royce (1) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Cannon Rose (5) P. Sai Kumar 54.5 and 6. Linda (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5.
1. CANNON ROSE, 2. LINDA

2 ZOOM ZOOM PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.50: 1. See My Spark (2) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Stoic Hero (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 3. Alexina (9) Ajay Kumar 57.5, 4. Sopranos (3) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 5. Adbhut (5) Md. Ekram Alam 54, 6. Happy Go Lucky (6) Ashad Asbar 53.5, 7. Wind Sprite (7) Afroz Khan 53.5, 8. Life's Living (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 52 and 9. City Cruise (8) Nakhat Singh 50.5.
1. ALEXINA, 2. ADBHUT, 3. HAPPY GO LUCKY

3 SANGAM PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.25: 1. Thunder Knight (1) Ajay Kumar 61, 2. Warwick (3) Ashad Asbar 59, 3. That's My Love (9) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 4. Zadelle (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 55, 5. Mix The Magic (8) Vivek G 54.5, 6. Magical Power (7) Surya Prakash 54, 7. Antidote (2) Abhay Singh 53.5, 8. London Bell (6) Nakhat Singh 53, 9. Hurricane Bay (4) Santosh Raj 52.5 and 10. Nav Lakhaa (10) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.
1. THUNDER KNIGHT,
2. MIX THE MAGIC,
3. WARWICK

4 ZOOM ZOOM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.00: 1. Carlisle (5) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Kenaf (6) Shivansh 59.5, 3. Garnet (1) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56, 4. Exclusive Luck (8) Md. Ismail 55, 5. Divine Connection (3) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 6. Only The Brave (4) Santosh Raj 53.5, 7. Magnum (7) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 53 and 8. Classical Music (2) G. Naresh 51.5.
1. KENAF,
2. GARNET,
3. MAGNUM

5 SANGAM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.35: 1. Great Giver (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Pancho (8) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 3. Chica Bonita (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 55, 4. Deccan Daisy (9) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 5. Park Lane (2) Md. Ismail 54, 6. American Flame (3) G. Naresh 53.5, 7. Dali's Destiny (4) Ajay Kumar 5.35, 8. Canterbury (6) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 9. Exeter (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 52.5.
1. CHICA BONITA,
2. GREAT GIVER,
3. PARK LANE

6 CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.10: 1. Strauss (6) Vivek G 60, 2. Reigning Beauty (9) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 3. Juramento (10) Ajay Kumar 57, 4. Capriati (1) P. Sai Kumar 54, 5. Decoy (8) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 53.5, 6. Star Medal (11) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 7. Midsummer Star (5) Santosh Raj 53, 8. Rising Tycoon (7) Mohit Singh 53, 9. Clare (2) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 52.5, 10. Fara (4) Ashad Asbar 52 and 11. Ruby Red (3) Afroz Khan 51.5.
1. JURAMENTO,
2. RUBY RED,
3. CAPRIATI

7 NEXT MOVE PLATE (1,100m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Eminency (7) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Reining Queen (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. Setastar (2) Mukesh Kumar 60, 4. Tortilla Chip (5) Santosh Raj 60, 5. My Master (1) Md. Ekram Alam 59.5, 6. Inderdhanush (3) A. Imran Khan 59, 7. Ampere's Touch (8) N.B. Kuldeep 58.5, 8. Sadiya (9) Deepak Singh 58.5, 9. Zidane (4) G. Naresh 57.5, 10. The Platinum Queen (–), 11. Protocol (10) Md. Ismail 53.5 and 12. Blue Brigade (11) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.5.
1. INDERDHANUSH,
2. TORTILLA CHIP,
3. MY MASTER
Day's Best: **KENAF**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7. Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

Knotty Legend obliges in main event

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar trained Knotty Legend (P. Trevor up), won the Frankel Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Friday (Dec 22). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das.

1. SHARAVATI PLATE: JE NE SAIS QUOI (G. Vivek) 1, Russian Romance (Antony) 2, Altamonte (Jagadeesh) 3 and Silver Token (S. John) 4. 2-3/4, 3-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 39.78s. ₹23 (w), 11, 17 and 35 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 103, FP: 95, Q: 37, Trinella: 2,664, Exacta: 7,419. Favourite: Je Ne Sais Quoi. Owner: Mr. Srinivasa M. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

2. GOKAK FALLS PLATE: SAIGON (I. Chisty) 1, Anadale (S. John) 2, Double Scotch (S. Saqlain) 3 and Wonder Woman (P. Trevor) 4. Shd, 3-1/4 and 3. 2m, 07.29s. ₹34 (w), 19, 35 and 35 (p), SHP: 96, THP: 68, FP: 461, Q: 235, Trinella: 11,524, Exacta: 68,518 (c/o). Favourite: Regal Aristocracy. Owner: Mr. Deepak Kumar. Trainer: Aravind G.

3. DEVARAYANADURGA STAKES: GRIZZLY (R. Pradeep) 1, Never Give In (S. John) 2, Treasure Chest (Inayat) 3 and Emeraldo (S. Shareef) 4. 1/2, 6 and 1-1/2. 1m, 26.51s. ₹274 (w), 66, 11 and 24 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 41, FP: 1,319, Q: 359, Trinella: 4,517, Exacta: 2,16,076. Favourite: Never Give In. Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: Warren Singh.

4. KOLAR PLATE: VIVALDO (G. Vivek) 1, Peyo (M. Prabhakaran) 2, Pink Jasmine (Shreyas S) 3 and Douglas (Antony) 4. 2-1/4. 3/4 and 2-3/4. 1m, 24.97s. ₹22 (w), 12, 37 and 43 (p), SHP: 99, THP: 111, FP: 267, Q: 232, Trinella: 9,698, Exacta: 83,859. Favourite: Vivaldo. Owners: Mrs. Gaja Manoj & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. FRANKEL TROPHY: KNOTTY LEGEND (P. Trevor) 1, Finley (Suraj) 2, Krystallos (Neeraj) 3 and La Mcqueen (Antony) 4. Not run: Golden Stride. 3-1/2, 7-1/2 and 1. 1m, 06.05s. ₹16 (w), 12, 12 and 23 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 52, FP: 49, Q: 31, Trinella: 283, Exacta: 489. Favourite: Knotty Legend. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das'. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. J.B. MALLARADHYA MEMORIAL TROPHY: SPLENDIDO (Antony) 1, Granpar (Neeraj) 2, Stravinsky (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Amazing Attraction (Trevor) 4. 2-1/2, 1/2 and 3. 2m, 07.32s. ₹66 (w), 23 and 25 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 44, FP: 680, Q: 267, Trinella: 760, Exacta: 2,556. Favourite: Stravinsky. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: Imtiaz Khan.

7. CHITRADURGA PLATE: SPECTACULAR (A. Ramu) 1, Golden Time (G. Vivek) 2, Classic Charm (I. Chisty) 3 and Four Wheel Drive (Inayat) 4. 1, Nose and 1-3/4. 1m, 26.49s. ₹314 (w), 49, 16 and 20 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 43, FP: 4,462, Q: 790, Trinella: 20,193, Exacta: 89,843. Favourite: High Opinion. Owner and trainer: Mr. Imtiaz Khan.

Jackpot: ₹53,914 (c/o); Runner-up: 11,553 (two tkts.); Treble (i): 8,019 (one tkt.); (ii): 1,470 (13 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs Australia Women: Only Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 8.45 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

SAY CHEESE!

Richa celebrates maiden Test fifty in the presence of her family

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Richa Ghosh scored a fifty on Test debut for India against Australia in Mumbai with her family watching from the President's Box. The 20-year-old's father Manabendra Ghosh played a key role in her growth as a cricketer. "Despite him not saying anything, he is here with me and that is the most important thing for me," Richa said.

MARATHON SPELL

Gardner ploughs away at Wankhede, bowls 41 overs

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Ashleigh Gardner bowled a marathon spell on day two of the one-off Test against India at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday. She bowled more than twice the quota of every other bowler, rolling her arm over for 41 overs. She conceded just 100 and dismissed Sneh Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia.

MEMORABLE WIN

Dhruv Sitwala clinches his maiden National billiards title

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PSPB's Dhruv Sitwala beat compatriot Sourav Kothari 37-150, 152-25, 23-152, 151-5, 65-150, 151-135, 150-132, 151-66 to win his maiden senior National billiards & snooker title in Chennai on Friday. Pankaj Advani, who lost to Sitwala in the semifinals, finished third. Aanya Patel won the junior girls' snooker crown.

DAY OF THRILLS

Sudhakar stars for Pirates against Thalaivas; Titans taste first success

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patna Pirates defeated home side Tamil Thalaivas 46-33 in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match in Chennai on Friday. Debutant Sudhakar M. scored 11 raid points for Pirates. Telugu Titans recorded its first win of the season, beating Haryana Steelers 37-36. Titans' defenders notched up 18 tackle points during the contest.

Batters frustrate Australia as India takes control on day two

After Smriti lays the foundation, Jemimah and Richa add 113 for the fourth wicket; Deepti and Pooja's defiant unbroken stand of 102 swings the momentum in the host's favour; Australia uses eight bowlers, Gardner picks up four wickets

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

India dominated the second day of the one-off Test against Australia at the Wankhede Stadium, riding on fifties by Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, debutant Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma and two century stands on either side of a second-session fumble.

On a surface that kept low and turned as the ball became old, not for once did the lack of experience in playing Tests reflect in India's batting as it ended the day at 376 for six, a lead of 157.

From 98 for one overnight, India dominated, barring a nervous second session, where it lost four wickets for just 14 runs.

Back on track

The home team recovered through Deepti Sharma (70 batting, 147b, 9x4) and Pooja Vastrakar (33 batting, 115b, 4x4) – the two were involved in an unbroken 102-run partnership for the eighth wicket in the final session – to extend the lead.

From 260 for three, with Richa and Jemimah frustrating the spinners by sweeping, India found itself in a spot of bother as Ashleigh Gardner (four for 100) and Kim Garth claimed quick wickets.

Piling it up: Richa and Jemimah anchored the Indian innings with a valuable stand. EMMANUAL YOGINI

However, Deepti and Pooja's resilience added to Australia's woes.

As the touring side took the new ball after the 88th over, the Indian batters made the most of the opportunities.

Deepti charged down the track to the spinners to keep the scoreboard ticking. She became the second woman with fifty-plus scores in each of the first four Tests after Australia's Denise Emerson.

Australia used eight bowlers, but could not break the partnership. Playing second fiddle, Pooja relied on singles.

India started the proceedings on Friday on a promising note as Smriti, who resumed at 43, looked determined to convert her half-century to a big score.

At a time when it looked a certainty, a mix-up between Richa and Smriti ended in the latter losing her wicket, falling 26 runs short of her second Test hundred. However, India did not lose the plot. Richa – considered a T20 specialist – made the most of a reprieve by Ellyse Perry on 14 to silence her critics with a determined maiden half-century.

Astute running

Along with Jemimah, she added 113 for the fourth wicket. With astute running between the wickets and sweep shots, Richa and Jemimah troubled the Australian bowlers.

In her second Test, Jemimah reached yet another fifty in her 121-ball stay. Though Garth and Gardner found a breakthrough, the lower-order ensured there was no slip-up.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 219 in 77.4 overs.

India — 1st innings: Shafali Varma lbw b Jonassen 40 *(59b, 8x4)*, Smriti Mandhana run out 74 *(106b, 12x4)*, Sneh Rana b Gardner 9 *(57b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Gardner b Garth 52 *(104b, 7x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Sutherland b Gardner 73 *(121b, 9x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Gardner 0 *(2b)*, Yastika Bhatia lbw b Gardner 1 *(7b)*, Deepti Sharma (batting) 70 *(147b, 9x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar (batting) 33 *(115b, 4x4)*; Extras (b-15, lb-5, nb-4): 24; Total (for seven wkts. in 119 overs): 376.

Fall of wickets: 1-90 (Shafali 16.4 overs), 2-140 (Sneh, 34.5), 3-147 (Smriti, 38.4), 4-260 (Richa, 69.5), 5-261 (Harmanpreet, 70.2), 6-265 (Yastika, 72.3), 7-274 (Jemimah 78.4).

Australia bowling: Cheatle 9-3-23-0, Garth 10-1-49-1, Perry 4-0-31-0, Gardner 41-7-100-4, Jonassen 18-4-42-1, Sutherland 8-2-20-0, King 19-1-69-0, McGrath 10-2-22-0.

Last few months were challenging mentally: Samson

Swing factor: Elevated to the No. 3 spot, Samson scored a measured 108 in the must-win final ODI. GETTY IMAGES

Press Trust of India
PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson revealed that the past three-four months have been mentally challenging for him but he kept at it by working on himself.

Samson was overlooked for the ODI World Cup in India despite averaging 55.7 with a strike rate of 104 in 13 ODI innings.

"The last three, four months were challenging for me mentally," said Sanju after the 78-run win on Thursday.

"So going through all that and coming here I think doing what I did today, I feel really happy and grateful," he said.

He scored his maiden ODI century to help India win the third game and clinch the series 2-1 against South Africa.

"I've been blessed in my genes. My father is also a sportsman... so despite the setbacks you have, you always think of bouncing back and coming out strongly.

"I just focused on the process and playing one ball at a time and then keep the scorecard ticking," Samson said.

Kohli returns home due to family emergency

Press Trust of India
CENTURION

Virat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency but the senior batter will be back in time for the first Test against South Africa starting here next week. Kohli had travelled to South Africa as part of the Indian squad for the two-Test series, which will begin at SuperSport Park on December 26.

Will be back

"Virat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency. But he will be back before start of the first Test," a BCCI source said.

It is understood that Kohli had already taken permission from BCCI brass about his short leave. Kohli will be back in the Rainbow Nation on December 24 and will take part in the pre-match training.

Ruturaj ruled out

Meanwhile, Ruturaj Gaikwad is ruled out of the two-match series after fracturing his finger. He had injured his finger while trying to take a catch during the second ODI against SA earlier this week.

Elgar to retire

Former South Africa Test captain Dean Elgar announced on Friday that he will retire from international cricket after the Test series against India.

Bharat knocks out Lakshya; Tanvi eliminates Aakarshi

NATL. BADMINTON

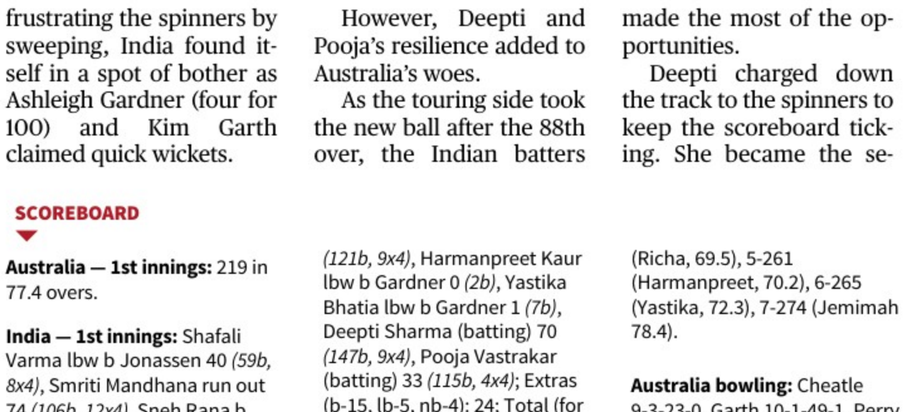
K. Keerthivasan
GUWAHATI

Bharat Raghav of Haryana ended top-seed Lakshya Sen's run in the men's singles quarterfinals, with an intensely fought 15-21, 21-15, 21-17 win in 56 minutes, and set up a clash with Telangana's M. Tharun, the fourth seed, in the 85th Senior National badminton championships here on Friday.

Tharun, who has been the most consistent among the top players in the tournament so far, was clinical in his victory over Maharashtra's Varun Kapoor, who retired in the second game after losing the first.

An hour or so earlier, 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma of Punjab played like a veteran to dispatch top-seeded Aakarshi Kashyap of Chhattisgarh in the women's last eight match.

Playing in his first senior Nationals, Bharat, Lakshya's practice partner at the Prakash Padukone Academy in Bengaluru, put up a mature display, attacking and defending with aplomb. Lakshya was leading 10-7 and 11-8 in the third game. But Bharat fought back, defending well and using his jump smashes judiciously. From 11-all, Bharat held the upper hand and once he took a 17-13 lead, he appeared confident and went after the Petroleum's star.



Giant-killers: Tanvi and Bharat made the semifinals at the expense of the top seeds. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"I have been training in PPA for the last two years. I play matches with Lakshya and train with Mithun and others. It is a great victory," Bharat told *The Hindu*.

Trained by mother Meena Sharma in Hoshiarpur, Tanvi put forth a fantastic exhibition of inch-perfect drops and good backcourt play to outwit the top seed in all manner possible.

Railways' Chirag Sen, Lakshya's elder brother, has been a stand-out player at the Nationals and his confidence had risen after the win over the third seed Kartikey Gulshan Kumar in the second round.

He completed a dominant victory over Arya Bhivpathaki and will take on second seed Kiran George of RBI in the semifinals. Kiran scripted a comfortable win over M. Mithun of Railways 21-12, 21-13.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Bharat Raghav (Har) bt Lakshya Sen (Pet) 21-15, 10-21, 21-17; M. Tharun (TS) bt Varun Kapur (Mah) 21-7, 13-3 (retd.) 21-7, 13-3 (retd.); Chirag Sen (Rlys) bt Arya Bhivpathaki (Mah) 24-22, 21-14; Kiran George (RBI) bt M. Mithun (Rlys) 21-12, 21-13.

Women: Tanvi Sharma (Pun) bt Aakarshi Kashyap (CG) 21-15, 22-20; Ishrani Baruah (Asm) bt Sriyanshi Valishetty (TS) 21-14, 14-21, 21-10; Anmol Kharb (Har) bt Mansi Singh (AAI) 21-15, 21-14; Ashmita Chaliha (Asm) bt M. Meghana Reddy (TS) 21-15, 21-19.

EBFC and OFC go goalless

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal FC created chances late in the game but failed to find a breakthrough as its ISL contest against Odisha FC ended goalless at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday.

The first half saw plenty of end-to-end action but both sides were found wanting in the final third. Odisha had a good chance in the ninth minute when Isak Ralte broke into the East Bengal box.

The Odisha midfielder, however, failed to get the ball past East Bengal goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Singh Gill.

The host had a fine opportunity in the 27th minute when Nandhakumar made his way through the right flank beating three Odisha defenders, but Odisha custodian Amrinder Singh stood strong.

In the 61st minute, Odisha's Roy Krishna dribbled from the left and fired a low cross but Jerry Mawihmingthanga failed to connect. That summed up the day for both teams.

Classy Harmeet regains the title, Poymantee is first-time winner

NATL. TABLE TENNIS

Rakesh Rao
PANCHKULA

Sometimes the scorelines do not reflect the clear superiority of a player. On Friday, Harmeet Desai's classy display stood out during the seven games he needed to dethrone G. Sathiyan and regain the men's singles title in the National table tennis championship here.

Before Harmeet won his second National title, Railways' Poymantee Baisya became the new singles champion in the women's section. She also won the women's doubles crown with Sutirtha and finished runner-up with Akash Pal in mixed doubles.

Harmeet trailed twice but hit back to pull ahead 3-2 when Sathiyan exercised the option of a medical break to nurse his troubled back. This surely broke Harmeet's rhythm as he dropped a close sixth game. Harmeet eventually won 10-12, 12-10, 14-16, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8.

Harmeet and Poymantee after their glittering show. RAKESH RAO

Earlier 11th seed Poymantee took out Archana Kamath, Sreeja Akula and fourth seed Ayhika Mukherjee to become the new champion. She bounced back from the loss of the opening game to overpower Ayhika 10-12, 11-7, 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-4.

Earlier, Manush Shah allowed only 18 points to fourth seed and 10-time champion Sharath Kamal in what could well be the latter's final National championship appearance.

The results:

Men: Final: Harmeet Desai (Pet) bt G. Sathiyan (Pet) 10-12, 12-10, 14-16, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8. **Semifinals:** Harmeet bt Manush Shah (RBI) 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 11-2); Sathiyan bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (Ben) 11-6, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6, 11-1. **Quarterfinals:** Harmeet bt Jeet Chandra (AAI) 6-11, 11-5, 11-9, 10-12, 11-2, 11-9; Manush bt Sharath Kamal (Pet) 11-9, 11-1, 11-4, 11-4; Sathiyan bt Akash Pal (Rlys) 11-9, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6; Ankur bt Anirban Ghosh (Rlys) 9-11, 12-14, 11-4, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4, 18-16.

Women: Final: Poymantee Baisya (Rlys) bt Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) 10-12, 11-7.11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-4. **Semifinals:** Ayhika bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, 11-8; Poymantee bt Sreeja Akula (RBI) 9-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-9. **Quarterfinals:** Pritha bt Diya Chitale (RBI) 3-11, 12-10, 11-9, 8-11, 3-11, 11-6, 11-6; Ayhika bt Suhana Saini (Hrn) 11-5, 11-9, 11-4, 11-4; Poymantee bt Archana Kamath (Pet) 9-11, 11-5, 6-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-5, 11-9; Sreeja bt Sayali Wani (Mah) 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-9, 12-10.**Doubles (finals): Men:** Anirban Ghosh & Ravindra Kotiyan (Rlys) bt Ankur Bhattacharya & Sourav Saha (Ben) 4-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7.**Women:** 2-Sutirtha Mukherjee & Poymantee Baisya (Rlys) bt Kaushani Nath & Prapti Sen (Ben) 12-10, 11-5, 11-13, 9-11, 11-9. **Mixed doubles:** Ronit Bhanja & Sutirtha Mukherjee (Rlys) bt Akash Pal & Poymantee Baisya (Rlys) 11-8, 5-11, 11-7, 11-5.

INBRIEF

Khawaja reprimanded by ICC over wearing black armband

Usman Khawaja has been reprimanded by the ICC for wearing a black armband in support of Palestinians in Gaza during the first Test against Pakistan. The charge means Khawaja can accept a warning and continue to play. However, he faces additional sanctions if he wears the armband again in the second Test.

Harkrishan Wadia takes overall lead after day one

Gaurav Gill clocked the fastest times in the first two special stages but it was Harkrishan Wadia (co-driver Kashyap) who claimed the overall lead at the end of the first day of the Blueband K1000 Rally - the sixth and final round of the Blueband Sports FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for four-wheelers here on Friday. Gill is in the fifth position, about 84 seconds behind the leaders.

The results: Overall: 1. Harkrishan Wadia / Kunal Kashyap (Arka Motorsports) (00hrs, 58min, 26.2secs); 2. Younus Ilyas / Nitin Jacob (00:59:11.7s); 3. Dean Mascarenhas / Gagan Karumbaiah (00:59:14:4s).

Sonia and Kalaivani make winning starts

Sonia Lather of RSPB and Tamil Nadu's S. Kalaivani started with dominating victories on the opening day of the women's National Boxing Championships in Greater Noida. Sonia beat Mahi Lama of Madhya Pradesh 5-0 in the 57kg. Kalaivaniproved too strong for Milano M.J. of Kerala in the 48kg match. Haryana's Gitika beat Meraj Begum of Telangana after the referee stopped the contest.Rinku (52kg) and Tannu (57kg) were the other boxers from Haryana to register victories.

Real wins in stoppage time, on top in LaLiga

Girona concedes late equaliser in its draw at Betis; Welbeck's late strike salvages draw for Brighton at Crystal Palace

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
MADRID

With a late goal after a lacklustre performance, Real Madrid found its way to victory and to the top of the Spanish LaLiga standings.

Lucas Vazquez scored with a header and Madrid pulled off a 1-0 win on the road against Alaves to reclaim first place after Girona conceded a late equaliser in its 1-1 draw at Real Betis earlier on Thursday.

Madrid and Girona are tied on 45 points but Madrid was ahead on a tiebreaker. The defending champion Barcelona lies third, seven points off the lead. The Catalan club edged last-place Almeria 3-2 at home on Wednesday.

Clutch goal: Vazquez, left, found the decisive header to clinch all three points for Madrid. AFP

Fernandez sent off

Madrid got the late win despite playing with 10 men from the 54th minute after central defender Nacho Fernandez was sent off for a hard foul.

Nacho was initially shown a yellow card after stepping on an opponent while going for the ball, but video review called the referee and it was determined the Madrid defender deserved a straight red card.

Girona opened the scoring with a penalty kick converted by Artem Dovbyk in the 39th, but the hosts equalised with German Pezzella in the 88th.

It was only the second time Girona failed to win in its last 12 matches in all competitions. It had won eight of its last nine league matches.

Danny Welbeck's late equaliser denied Crystal Palace a first Premier League win in seven games as Brighton salvaged a 1-1 draw at Selhurst Park on Thursday.

Jordan Ayew headed the Eagles into the lead in first half stoppage time as Palace pounced on Brighton goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen's poor clearance.

However, the home side could not hold out as this fixture ended 1-1 at Selhurst Park for the fifth consecutive season.

Brighton has also struggled of late after a bright start to the season as a lengthy injury list and the club's first ever foray into European football has taken its toll. But Robert De Zerbi's changes for the second half summoned a response from the Seagulls.

Welbeck's introduction was one of two half-time substitutions and the former England international's precise header into the top corner from Pascal Gross' cross levelled on 82 minutes.

A point edges Brighton up to eighth in the table, while Palace move nine points clear of the relegation zone in 15th.

The results: LaLiga: Real Betis 1 (Pezzella 88) drew with Girona 1 (Dovbyk 39-pen); Cadiz 0 drew with Real Sociedad 0; Real Mallorca 3 (Nastasic 12, D. Rodriguez 53, Raillo 62) bt Osasuna 2 (Ibanez 7, Raul 90+1); Alaves 0 lost to Real Madrid 1 (Vazquez 90+2).

Premier League: Crystal Palace 1 (Ayew 45) drew with Brighton 1 (Welbeck 82).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sukruth's 159 powers St. Joseph's win

J. Sukruth (159) powered St. Joseph's Boys' HS past Sri Kumaran Children's Home in the BTR Shield under-14 Group I, Division I tournament here.

The scores: St Joseph's Boys' HS 348/7 in 50 overs (Samarth Karumbaiah 44, J. Sukruth 159, Aaron Minj 56, Anirudh Prasanna 4/53) bt Sri Kumaran Children's Home 180 in 49.5 overs (Sanjit Sathish 33, Advaith Kamesh 31).

Bishop Cotton 57 in 30 overs (A. Vishnu 4/8, Ayush Barath 3/14) lost to Gopalan National School 60/1 in 8.2 overs (Kumar Sinha 25 n.o.).

Mallya Aditi 68 in 32.3 overs (Neeraj Kulkarni 4/10) lost to Max Muller 69 for no loss in 8 overs (Chirag Harsha 42 n.o.).

Jain Heritage School 238/8 in 50 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 60, Aditya Jha 83, J.N. Daksh 39, Aakash Suresh 3/46) lost to Delhi PS (South) 239/9 in 49.5 overs (Rachit Das 33, Syaamantak Anirudh 105, Aakash Suresh 29).

BGS National PS 128 in 46.3 overs (Yaeesh Rahaman 41, Pratham Rao 43, Balpreet Singh 3/23, Swayam Shabadi 3/24, M. Rohith 3/21) lost to Holy Saint English School 132/3 in 27.2 overs (R. Kuber 77 n.o.).

Ebenezer IS 243/9 in 50 overs (Bryan Thomas 31, Rithvik Kulasekar 111, Suvik Gill 34) lost to School Of India 244/8 in 49.5 overs (Aadrith 71, Vasisht Shetty 36).

Delhi PS (North) 146 in 47.2 overs (Om Agarwalla 3/26, Paarth Madan 3/18) lost to Vidyashilp Academy 147/9 in 42.5 overs (Singh Dhami 25, Om Agarwalla 37, Amogh Srinivas 3/28, Rayyan Khan 4/45).

Shivu's 233 headlines Giridhanva's victory

M. Shivu (233, 132b, 44x4, 2x6) starred for Giridhanva School against Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir (Bangalore South) in the KSCA Cup under-16 Division III tournament.

The scores: Giridhanva School 498/2 in 50 overs (Madan Patil 136, M. Shivu 233, Gagan 85 n.o.) bt Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir (Bangalore South) 101 in 29.5 overs (Gagan 3/28, Rudranshu 3/6).

Poorna Vikas Vidyalaya 285/9 in 50 overs (N.S. Shaurya 146 n.o., S. Shwaas 4/52) bt Sherwood High 70 in 27 overs (Sujan Halli 4/12).

Clarence PS 165 in 36.3 overs (Sai Janesh 46, Mithilesh Reddy 31, Jayanth Atluri 4/23, Komal Gowda 3/36) lost to Delhi PS (Whitefield) 169/3 in 30.1 overs (Skanda Narasimha 29, Dhruv Anand 32, Sujan Aravind 66 n.o.).

Gopalan IS 126 in 31.4 overs (Shashank 26, Kabir 29, Sharvil 4/29, Chirag 3/11) lost to Vydehi School of Excellence 127/3 in 30 overs (Tarun 42, Gagan 48 n.o.).

Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya 77 in 21 overs (Ajay Kurpad 5/10) lost to St. Joseph's School 78/4 in 15.5 overs (Kumar Krishnan 32).

St. Francis School (ICSE) 191 in 41.5 overs (V. Pravin 26, Satayiu 45, K. Sunny 36, P. Karthik 6/35, Ishaan 3/39) bt Silicon City Academy of Secondary Education 169 in 49.3 overs (Yashas 38, P. Karthik 46, Supreeth 28, Prabhath 3/10, N.P. Harsha 3/35).

Air Force School 92 in 17 overs (Ganesh Vasista 41, Skanda 6/17) lost to Little Flower 93/4 in 17.1 overs (A. Rishik 26, Dixith Kumar 26).

Titles for Reyansh and Tanishka

Reyansh Jalan and Tanishka Kapil won the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the CVL Shastry Memorial State under-13 table tennis championship here.

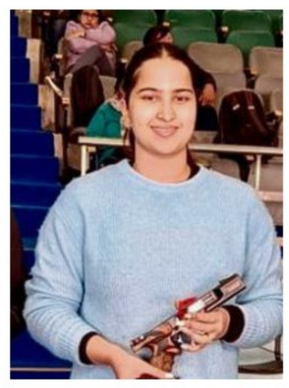
The results: Finals: U-13: Boys: Reyansh Jalan bt Aman George 11-5, 11-7, 5-11, 11-13, 11-7.

Girls: Tanishka Kapil bt Annette Mariana 11-2, 11-2, 11-3.

Hindustan Friends eases past East India

Hindustan Friends HC blanked East India HC 3-0 in the KSHA - BHA 'A' Division hockey league here.

The result: Hindustan Friends HC 3 (Naveen Kumar 5, Ajay 12, 15) bt East India HC 0.



Rhythm.

Sift tops the rifle 3-position with ease

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian Games gold medallist and world record holder Sift Kaur Samra was in dominant form as she topped the women's rifle 3-position event yet again, with a score of 464.8 beating Olympian Anjum Moudgil by 3.1 points, in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Friday.

In women's 25-metre sports pistol, Rhythm Sangwan was in top form in the final, as she beat qualification topper and Olympic quota winner Manu Bhaker (590) 35-32.

In men's air rifle, Kiran Jadhav topped both qualification and the final with scores of 633.4 and 252.8 respectively.

The results: 10m air rifle: Men: 1. Kiran Jadhav 252.8 (633.4); 2. Hriday Hazarika 250.5 (629.2); 3. Lagad Saurav Gorakh 2229.4 (629.0).

25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 35 (578); 2. Manu Bhaker 32 (590); 3. Heena Sidhu 27 (586).

50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Sift Kaur Samra 464.8 (595); 2. Anjum Moudgil 461.7 (588); 3. Priya 448.8 (587).

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